

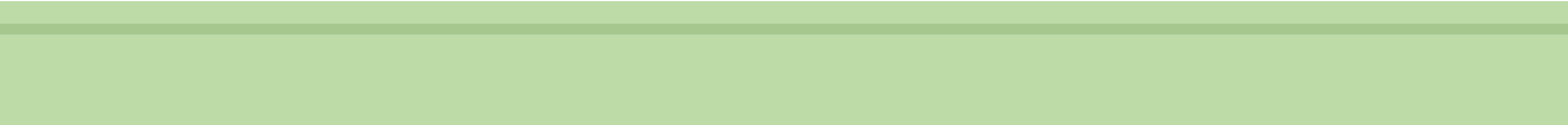
# Food Commoning in Practice. Investigating the Hybrid Governance of Local Food Networks in Brussels



Workshop Rethinking the Urban Commons in European City-Regions, Brussels 12 02 '18

Alessandra Manganelli, (KULeuven/VUB)

# Presentation Outline



# Presentation Outline

- **Introducing food as a commons**



# Presentation Outline



**Introducing food as a commons**



**Relations to the urban** (also examples from Brussels)

# Presentation Outline

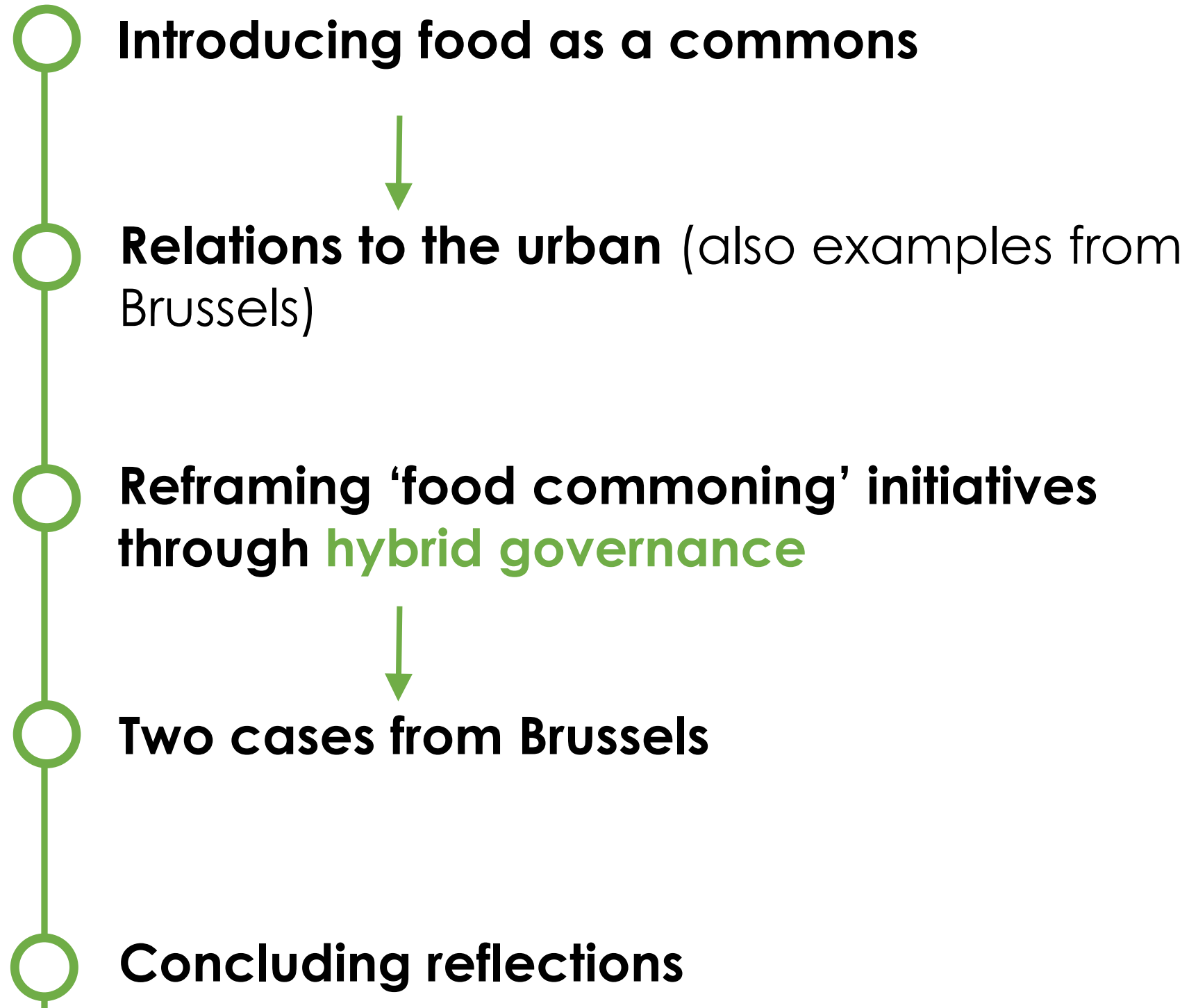




# Presentation Outline



# Presentation Outline



# Food as a Commons | Introduction





# Food as a Commons | Introduction

Wider picture

- **International social movement coming from the Rural world**  
(peasant struggles)



# Food as a Commons | Introduction

Wider picture

- **International social movement coming from the Rural world**  
(peasant struggles)



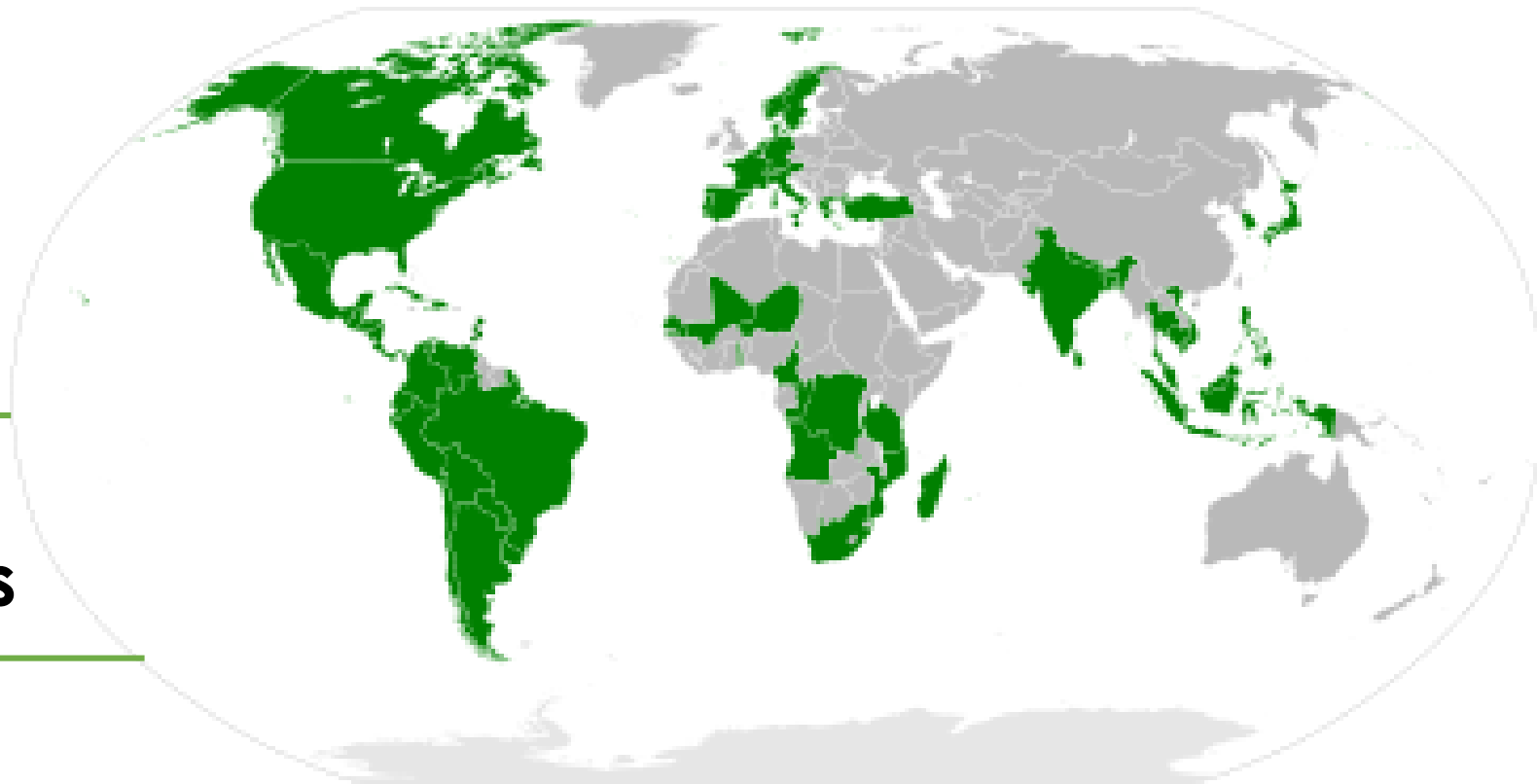
**La Via Campesina**

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**81 Countries**  
**182 Organizations**

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**Introduction**



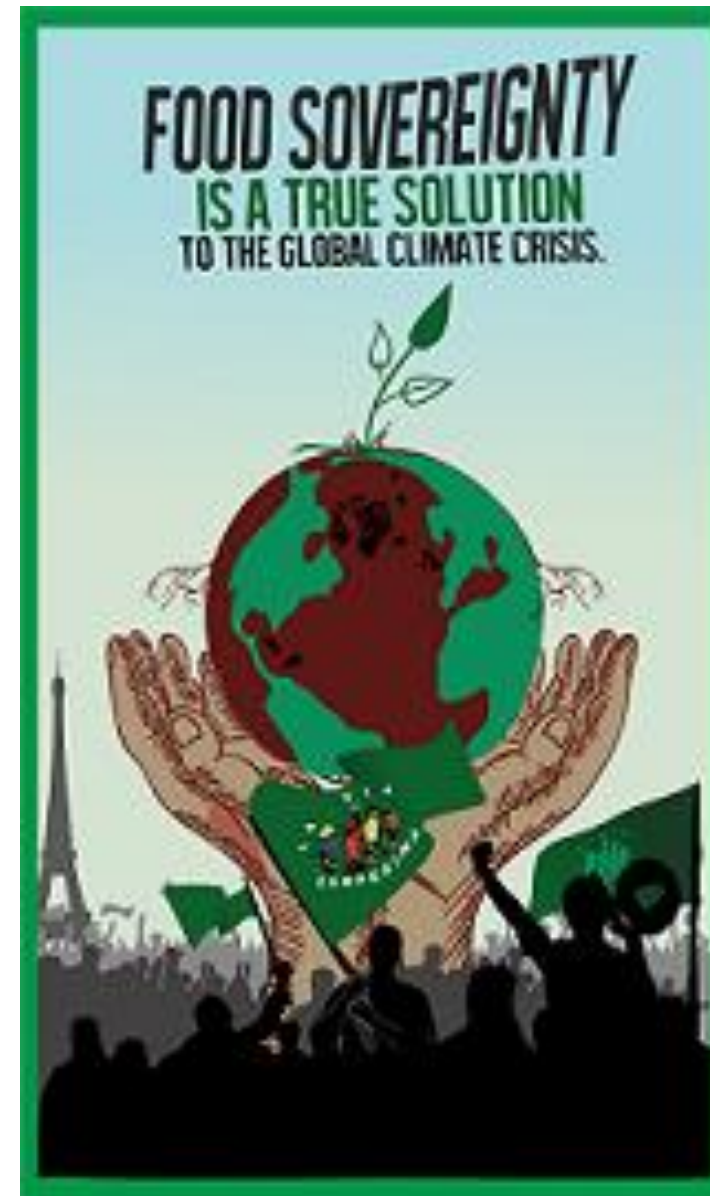
# Food as a Commons | Introduction

Wider picture

- **International social movement coming from the Rural world**  
(peasant struggles)



La Via Campesina



Introduction



# Food as a Commons | Introduction

Wider picture

- **International social movement coming from the Rural world**  
(peasant struggles)

## Transformative utopia

=>**re-localizing** food systems

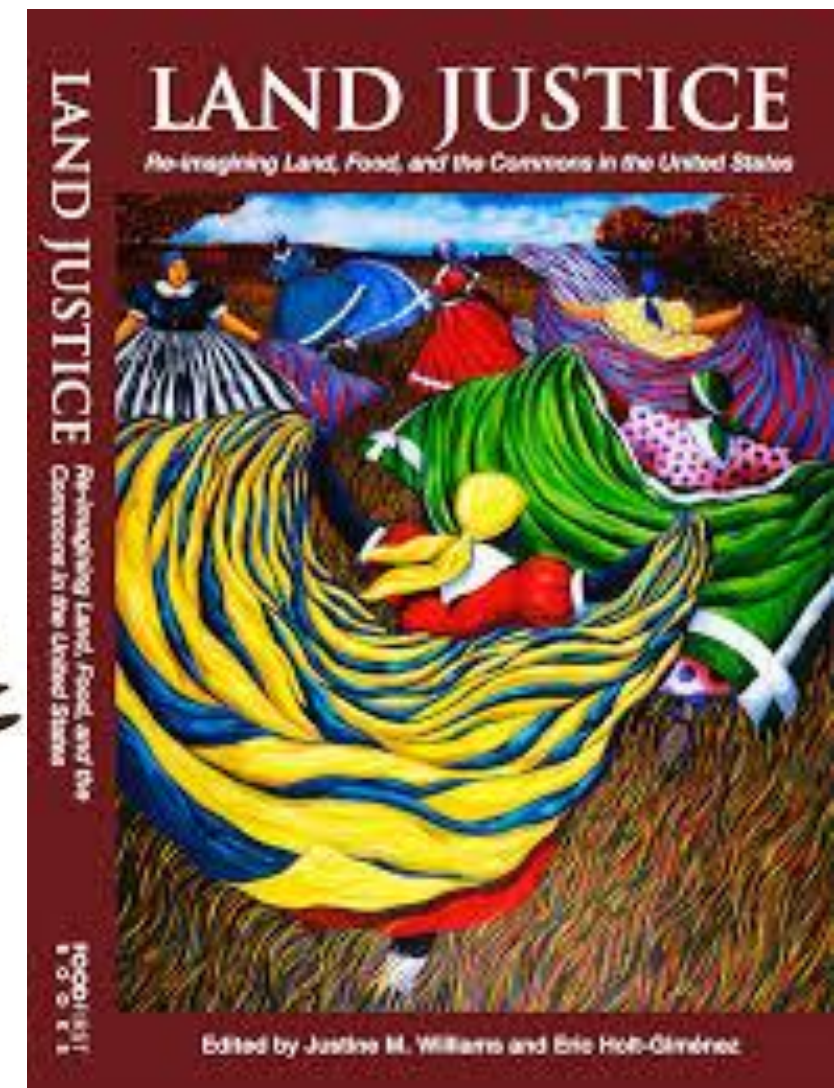
=>**regaining community control**  
over **resources** (e.g. land, seeds)

=>**against privatization**  
and corporate food  
regimes

## Introduction



*US food sovereignty alliance*



# Food as a Commons | Relations to the Urban

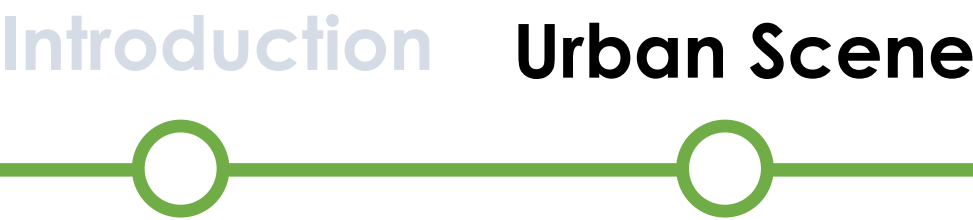
Introduction

Urban Scene



# Food as a Commons | Relations to the Urban

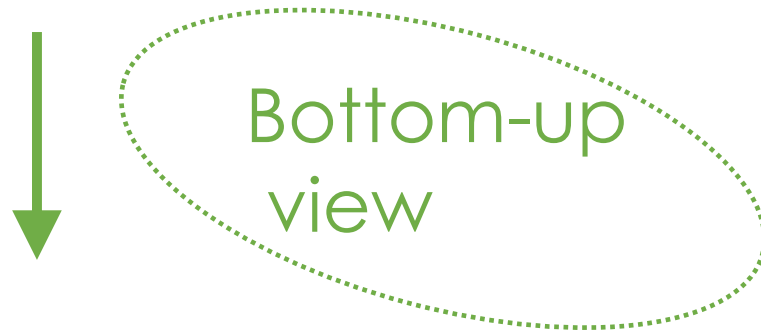
A revived urban presence in the food movement





# Food as a Commons | Relations to the Urban

A revived urban presence in the food movement



- **Emerging self-organizing initiatives of diverse types and scales**

Introduction

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# Food as a Commons | Relations to the Urban

## A revived urban presence in the food movement



Bottom-up  
view

- **Emerging self-organizing initiatives of diverse types and scales**



*Re-claiming urban land  
as a commons*

Introduction

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# Food as a Commons | Relations to the Urban

## A revived urban presence in the food movement



Bottom-up  
view

- **Emerging self-organizing initiatives of diverse types and scales**



*Re-claiming urban land  
as a commons*

Introduction

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# Food as a Commons | Relations to the Urban

## A revived urban presence in the food movement



Bottom-up  
view

- **Emerging self-organizing initiatives of diverse types and scales**



*-Alternative Consumption  
Networks  
-Urban-rural alliances*

Introduction

Urban Scene





# Food as a Commons | Relations to the Urban | Brussels

Some example in the Brussels-Capital Region (BCR)

Introduction

Urban Scene



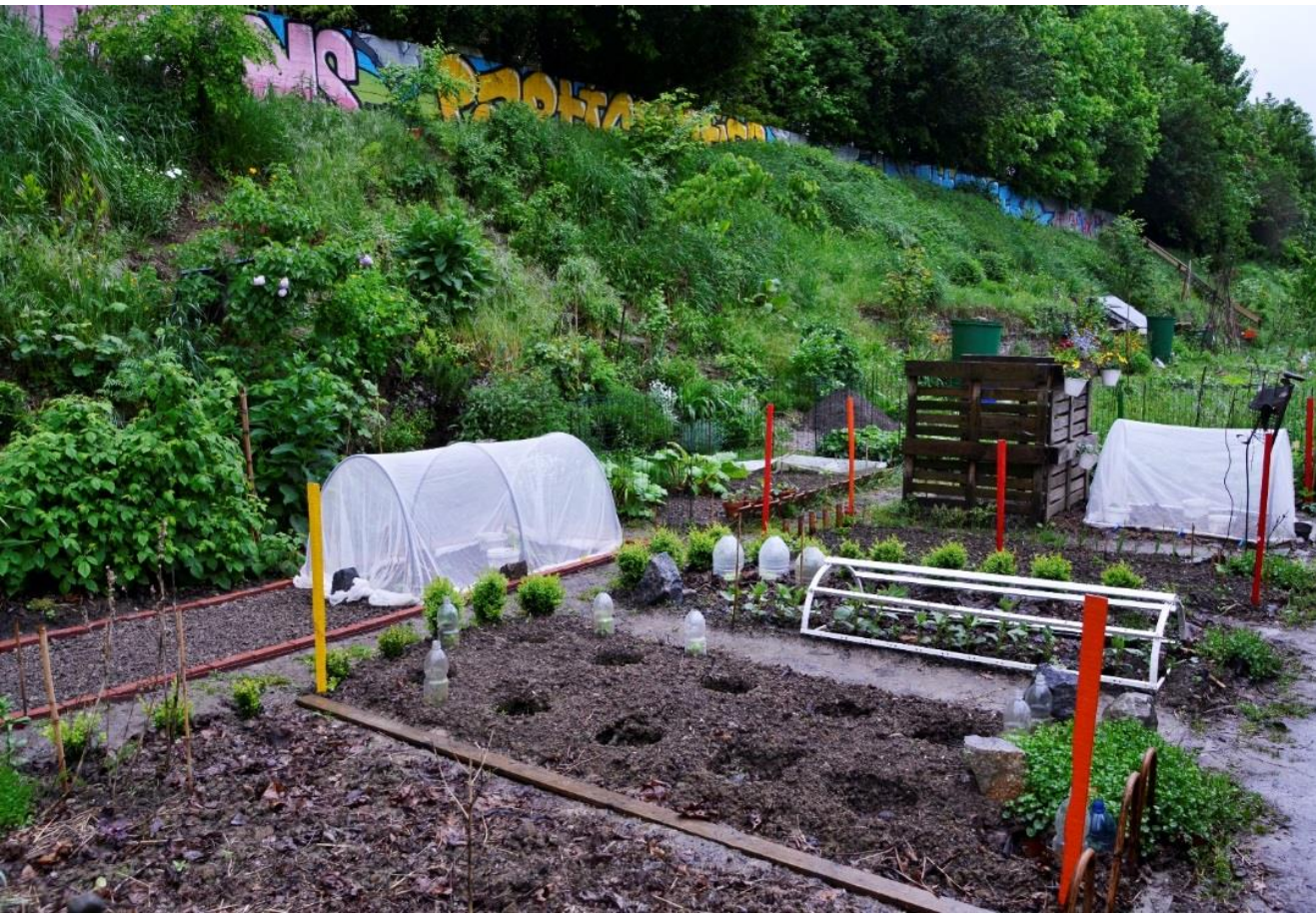


# Food as a Commons | Relations to the Urban | Brussels

Some example in the Brussels-Capital Region (BCR)

## - Collective Gardens

*Jardins participatifs Etterbeek*





# Food as a Commons | Relations to the Urban | Brussels

Some example in the Brussels-Capital Region (BCR)

## - Collective Gardens

*Jardins de la Rue Gray*

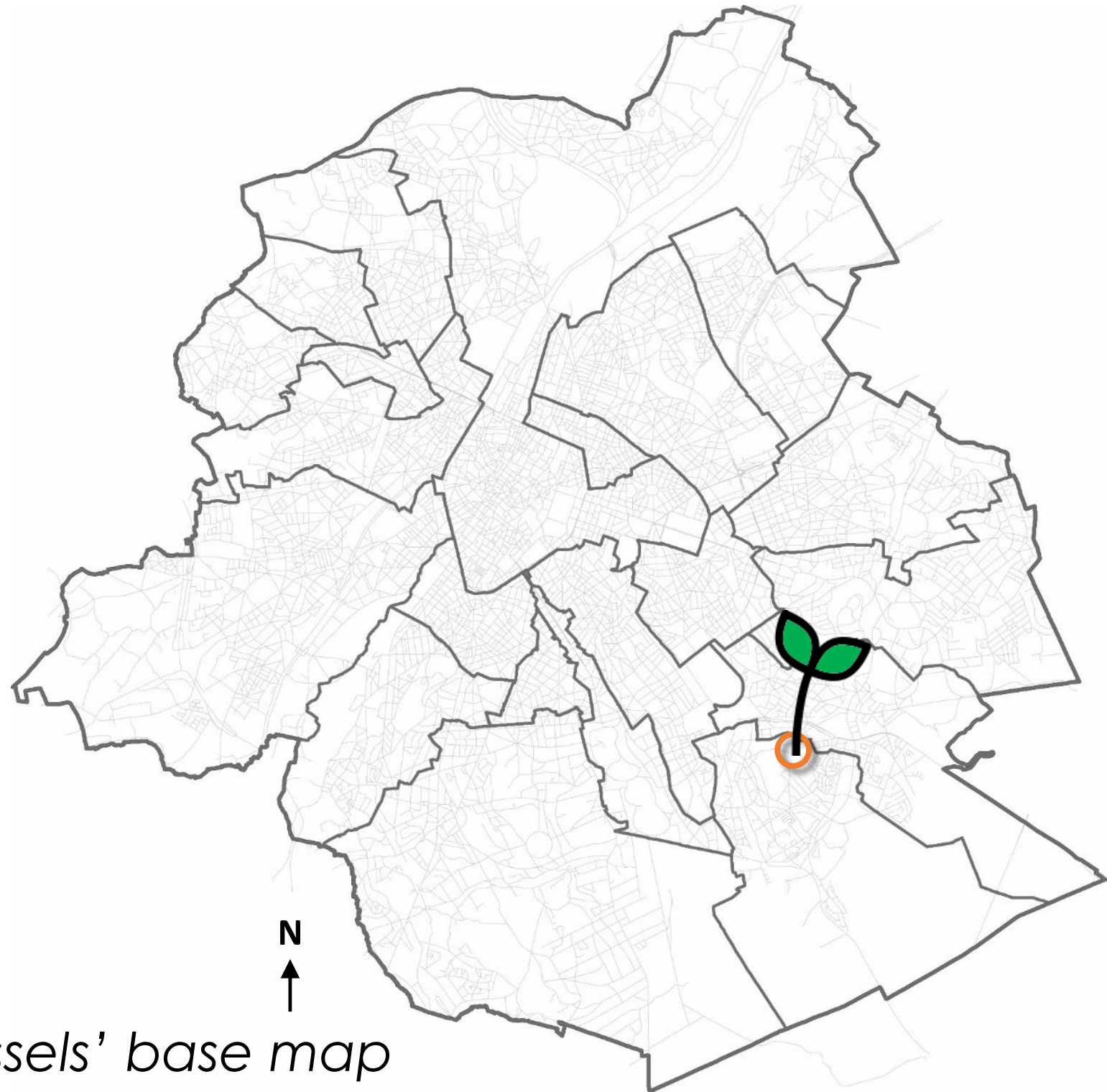




# Food as a Commons | Relations to the Urban | Brussels

Some example in the Brussels-Capital Region (BCR)

- Collective Gardens
- CSA Farm





# Food as a Commons | Relations to the Urban

*Chant des Cailles*

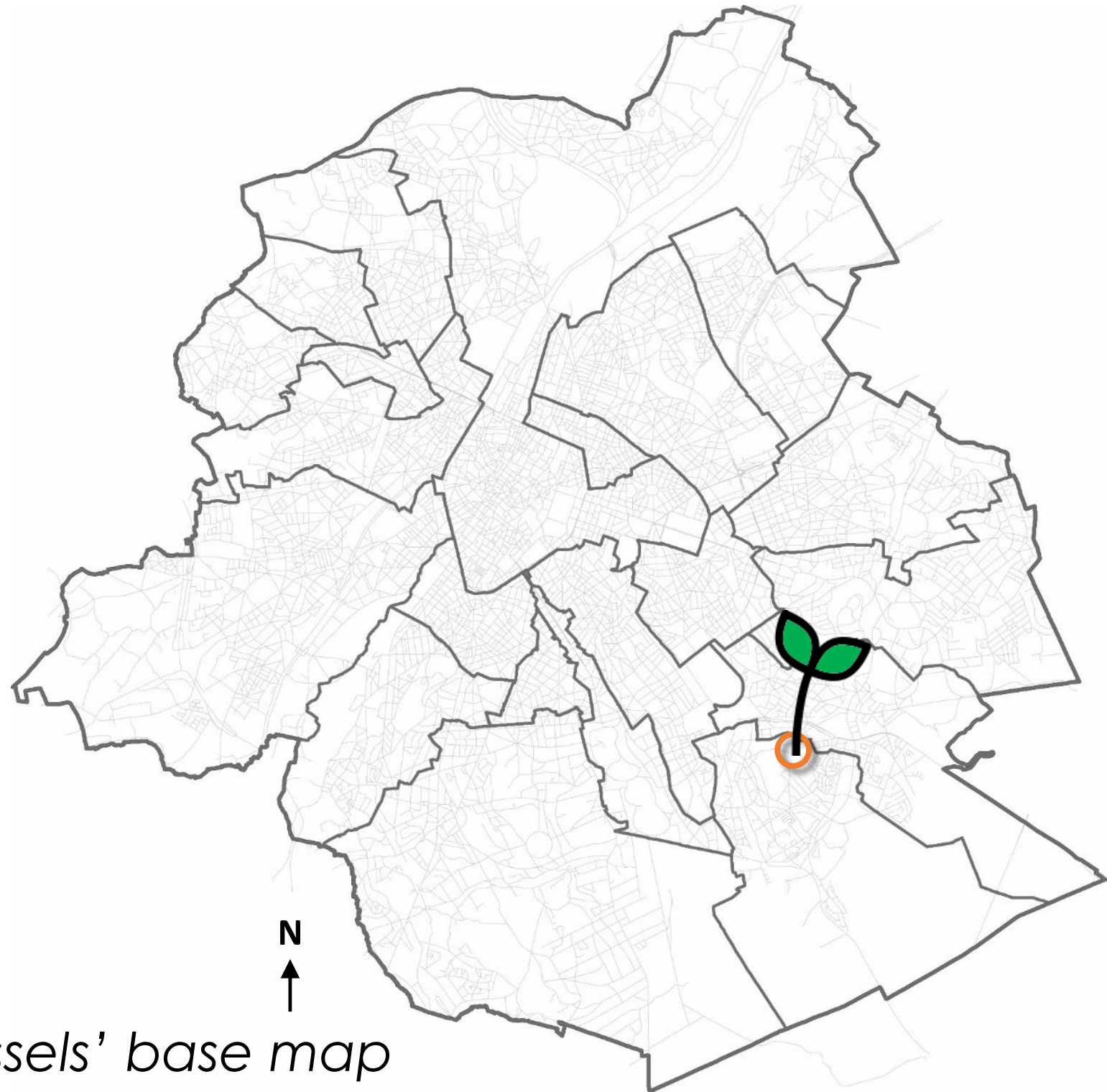




# Food as a Commons | Relations to the Urban | Brussels

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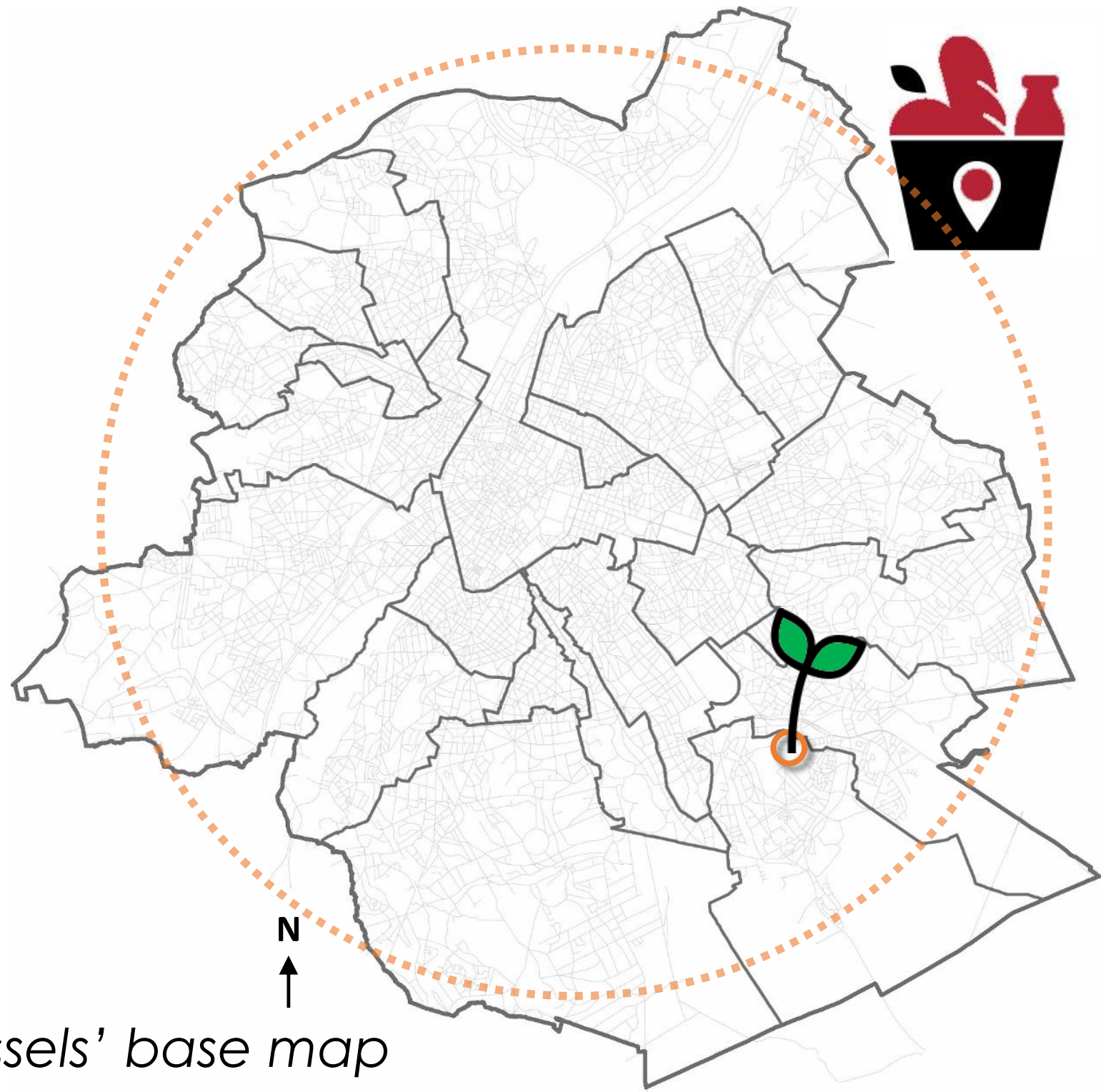
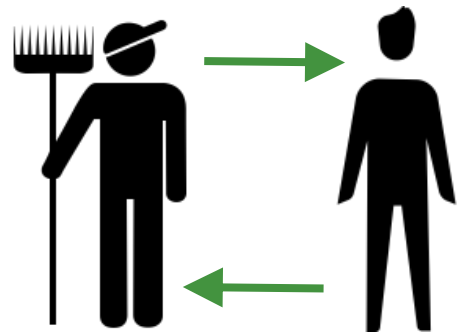
- Collective Gardens
- CSA Farm



# Food as a Commons | Relations to the Urban | Brussels

Some example in the Brussels-Capital Region (BCR)

- Collective Gardens
- CSA Farm
- A CSA network=>  
the **GASAP**



Brussels' base map







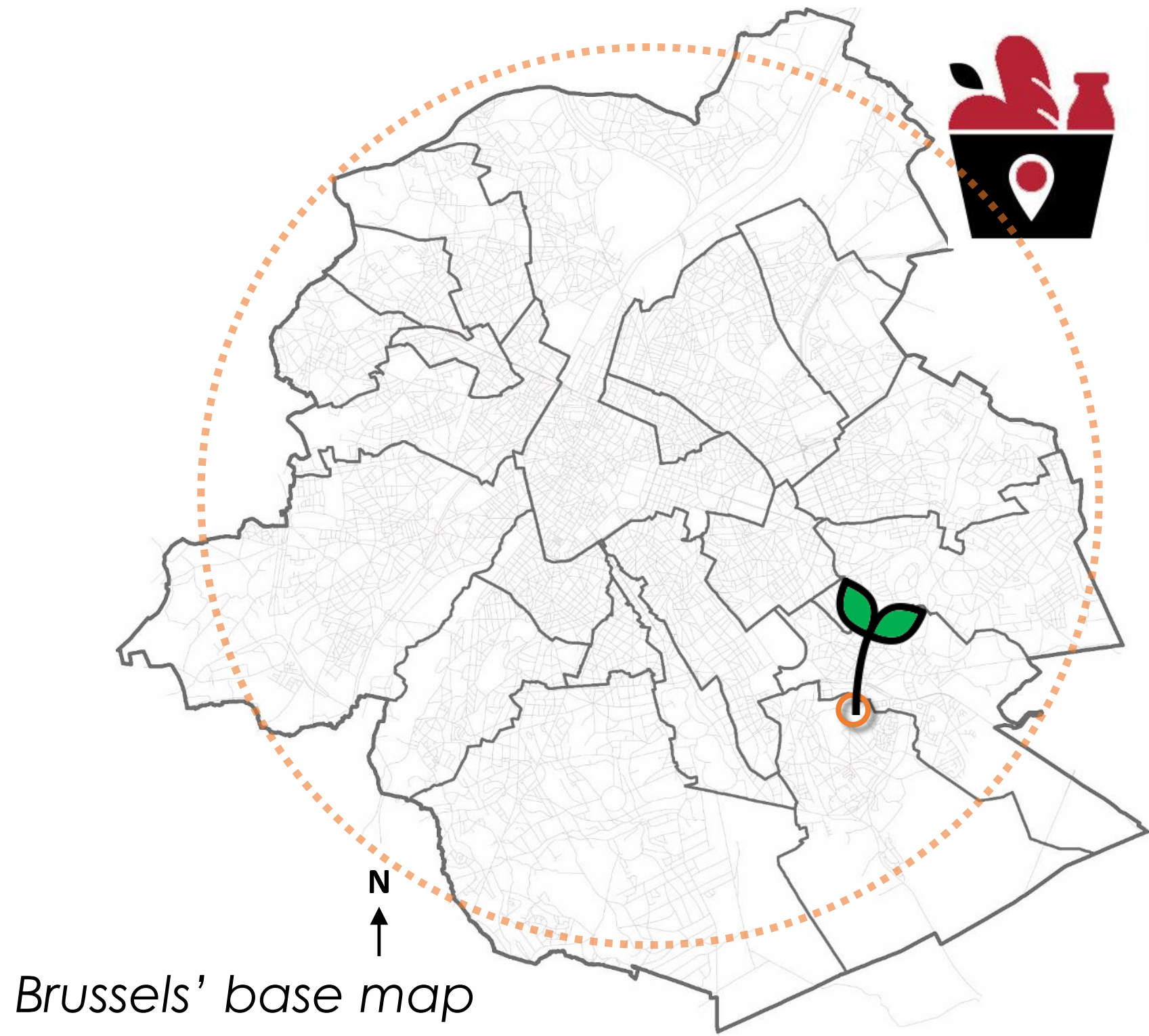




# Food as a Commons | Relations to the Urban | Brussels

Some example in the Brussels-Capital Region (BCR)

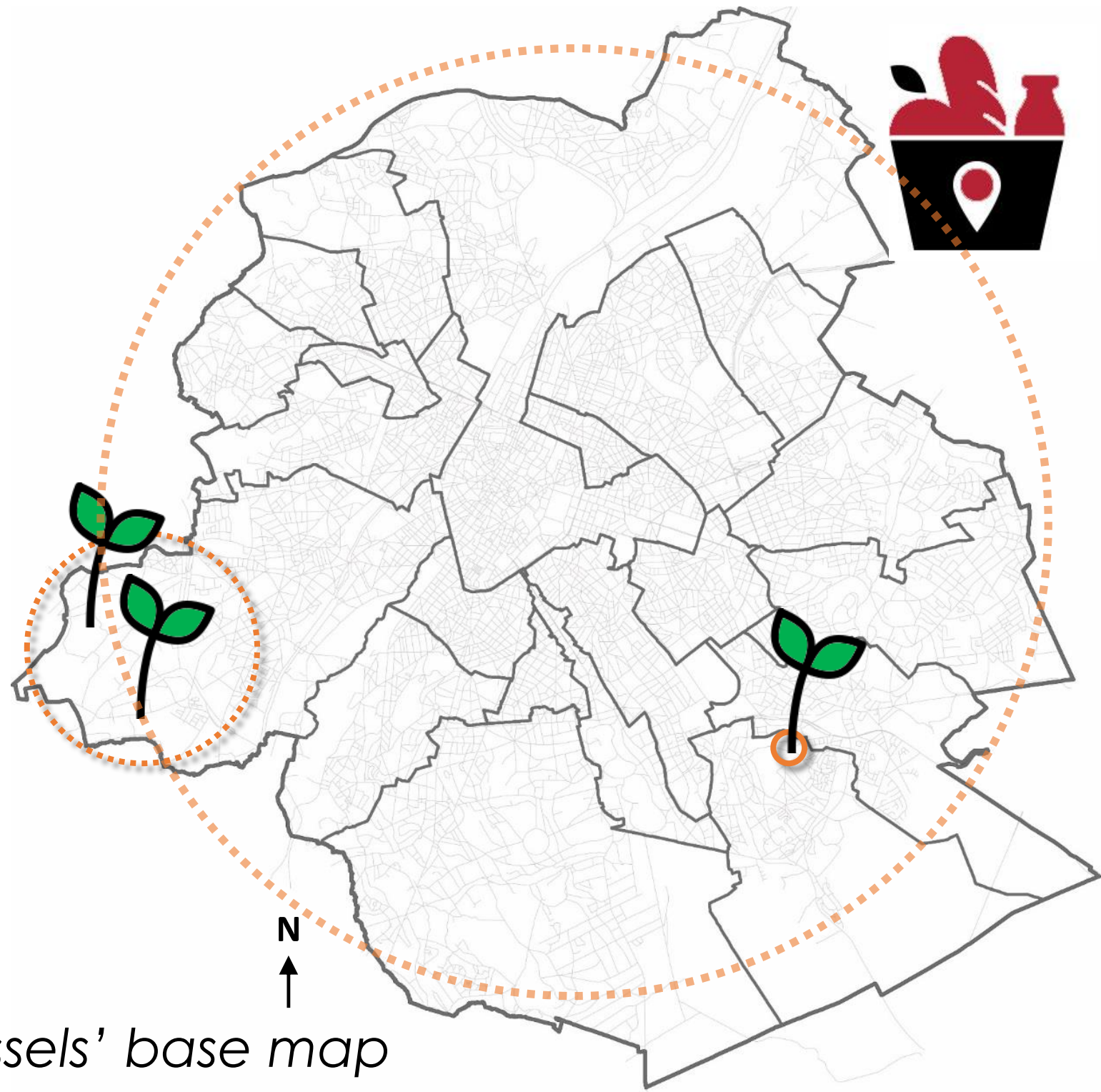
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# Food as a Commons | Relations to the Urban | Brussels

## Some example in the Brussels-Capital Region (BCR)

- Collective Gardens
- CSA Farm
- A CSA network=>  
the **GASAP**
- “Terre en Vue” Organization    *‘Land as a commons’*

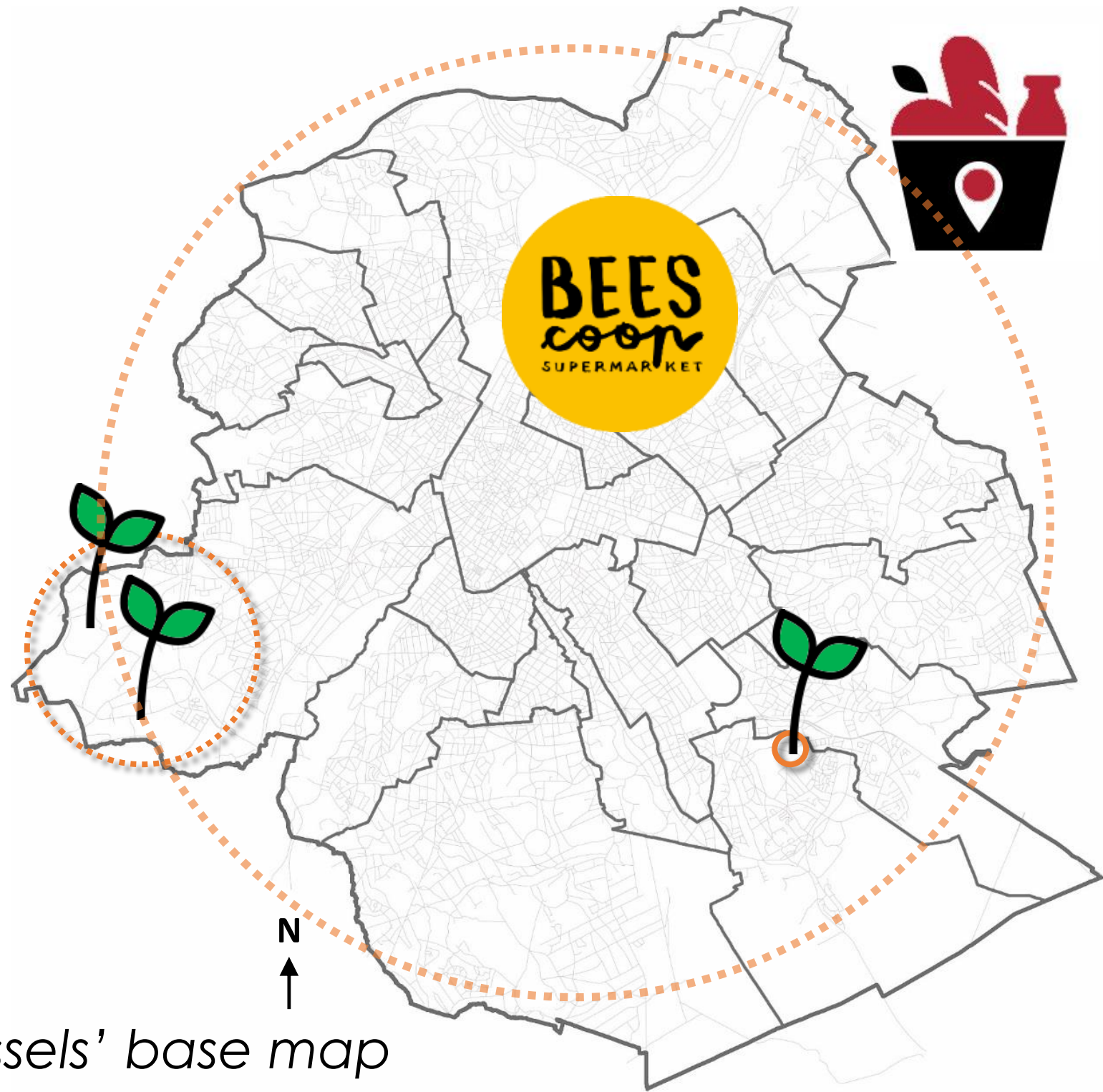




# Food as a Commons | Relations to the Urban | Brussels

## Some example in the Brussels-Capital Region (BCR)

- Collective Gardens
- CSA Farm
- A CSA network=>  
the **GASAP**
- “Terre en Vue” Organization    *‘Land as a commons’*
- Community-led cooperative super-market







<http://bees-coop.be/>



# Food as a Commons | Hybrid Governance Perspective

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# Food as a Commons | Hybrid Governance Perspective

What types of **governance tensions** condition the development of local food initiatives and their specific forms of out-scaling/upscaling?

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# Food as a Commons | Hybrid Governance Perspective

What types of **governance tensions** condition the development of local food initiatives and their specific forms of out-scaling/upscaling?



Initiatives driven by their **own value systems**/organizational modalities **but also** embedded in a **net of relations with actors, organizations, multi-level institutional structures**

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# Food as a Commons | Hybrid Governance Perspective

What types of **governance tensions** condition the development of local food initiatives and their specific forms of out-scaling/upscaling?

*What type of tensions?*

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What types of **governance tensions** condition the development of local food initiatives and their specific forms of out-scaling/upscaling?

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ORGANIZATIONAL

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# Food as a Commons | Hybrid Governance Perspective

What types of **governance tensions** condition the development of local food initiatives and their specific forms of out-scaling/upscaling?

- Value Systems
- Organizational models
- Societal missions

*What type of tensions?*

ORGANIZATIONAL

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- Organizational models
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*What type of tensions?*

ORGANIZATIONAL

*-Organizational/  
management  
challenges  
as they develop*

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What types of **governance tensions** condition the development of local food initiatives and their specific forms of out-scaling/upscaling?

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ORGANIZATIONAL



RESOURCE

*-Organizational/  
management  
challenges  
as they develop*

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What types of **governance tensions** condition the development of local food initiatives and their specific forms of out-scaling/upscaling?

- Value Systems
- Organizational models
- Societal missions

ORGANIZATIONAL



- Need for  
Accessing/  
Securing  
Resources

RESOURCE

*What type of tensions?*

*-Organizational/  
management  
challenges  
as they develop*

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What types of **governance tensions** condition the development of local food initiatives and their specific forms of out-scaling/upscaling?

- Value Systems
- Organizational models
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Accessing/  
Securing  
Resources

ORGANIZATIONAL



RESOURCE



INSTITUTIONAL

- Organizational/  
management  
challenges  
as they develop

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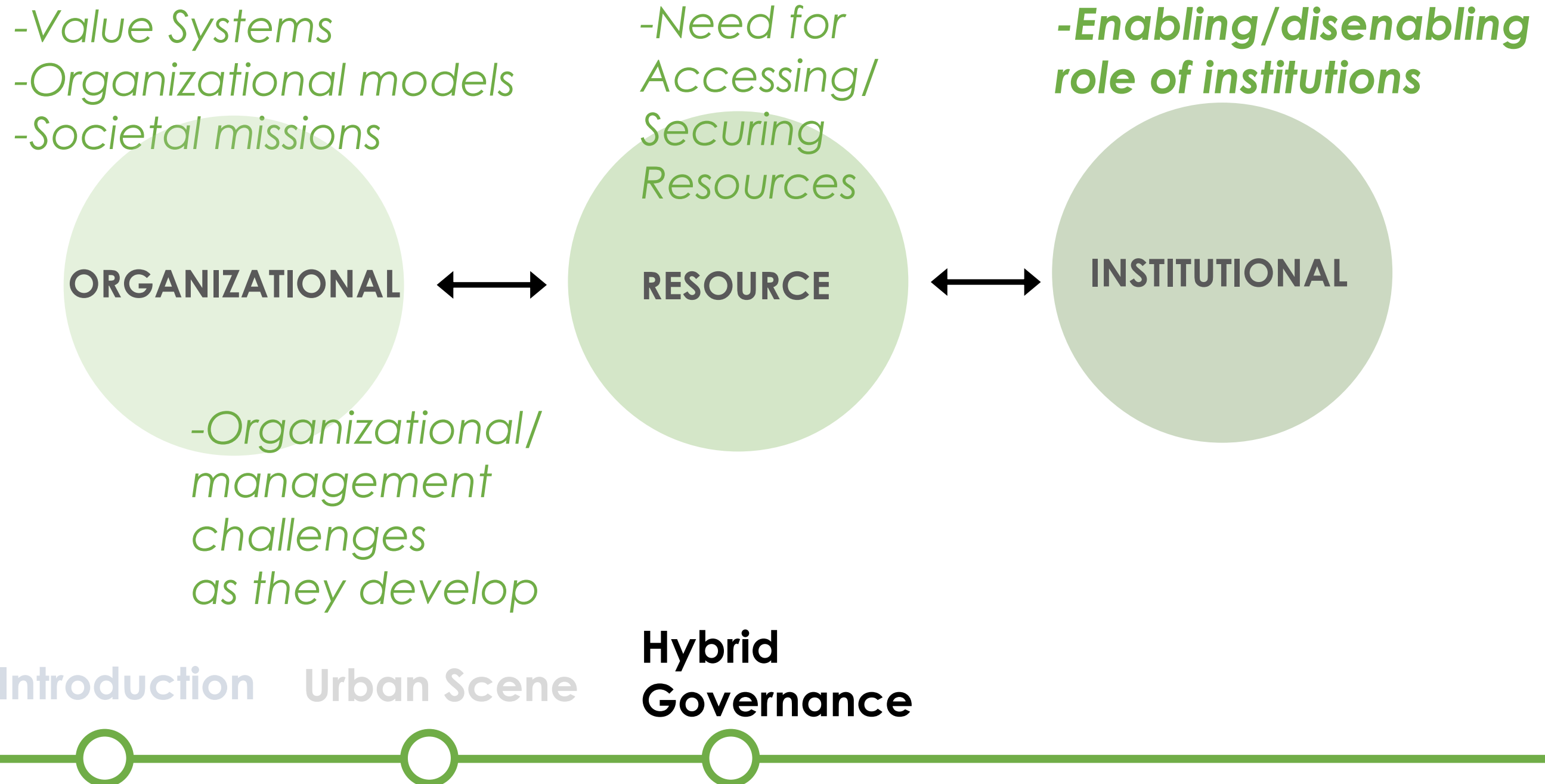
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# Food as a Commons | Hybrid Governance Perspective

What types of **governance tensions** condition the development of local food initiatives and their specific forms of out-scaling/upscaling?

- Value Systems
- Organizational models
- Societal missions

**ORGANIZATIONAL**



- Need for  
Accessing/  
Securing  
Resources

**RESOURCE**



- Enabling/disabling  
role of institutions**

**INSTITUTIONAL**

- Organizational/  
management  
challenges  
as they develop

- Search  
for institutions which  
enable connectivity/  
cooperation?**

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# Hybrid Governance Perspective | Two Cases from Brussels

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Cases from  
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# Hybrid Governance Perspective | Two Cases from Brussels

CSA Network  
GASAP



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**Cases from  
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# Hybrid Governance Perspective | Two Cases from Brussels

CSA Network  
GASAP

Access to  
Land



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# Hybrid Governance Perspective | Two Cases from Brussels

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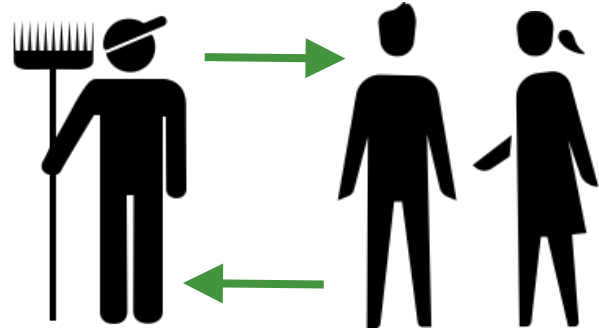
# Hybrid Governance Perspective | Two Cases from Brussels

The Brussels' GASAP => a 'spatially extended' CSA



# Hybrid Governance Perspective | Two Cases from Brussels

The Brussels' GASAP => a 'spatially extended' CSA



Direct relation producers/consumers

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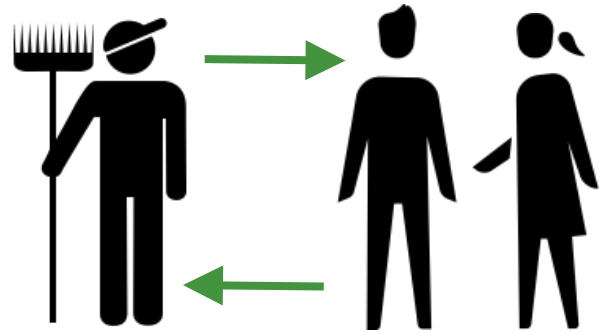
Hybrid  
Governance

Cases from  
Brussels



# Hybrid Governance Perspective | Two Cases from Brussels

The Brussels' GASAP => a 'spatially extended' CSA



Direct relation producers/consumers



- **Regular delivery of produce** (every 1 or 2 weeks)
- **Each food basket is associated to a small group of consumers** (e.g. from 1 to 4 consumers)

Introduction

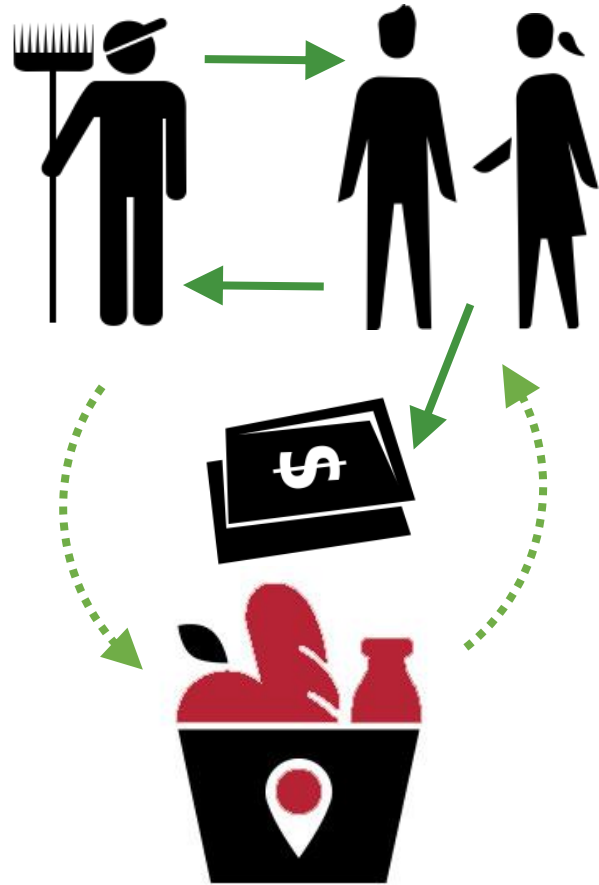
Urban Scene

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# Hybrid Governance Perspective | Two Cases from Brussels

The Brussels' GASAP => a 'spatially extended' CSA



**Direct relation producers/consumers**

=> **Solidarity Engagement by Consumers**

**Pre-payment at the beginning of the season**

- **Regular delivery of produce**  
(every 1 or 2 weeks)
- **Each food basket is associated to a small group of consumers** (e.g. from 1 to 4 consumers)

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# Hybrid Governance Perspective | Two Cases from Brussels

The Brussels' GASAP => a 'spatially extended' CSA



**2006**

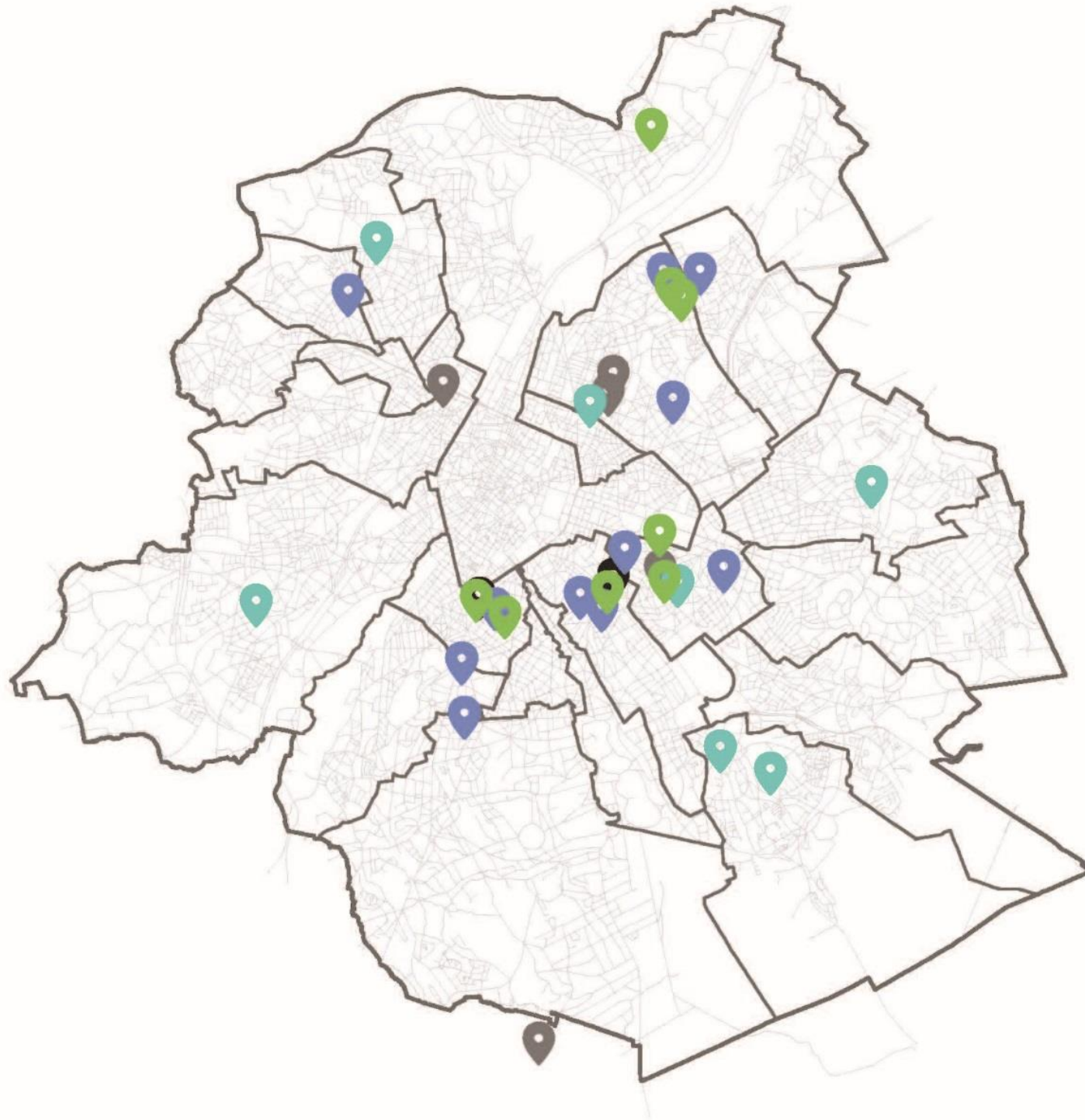
First GASAP Groups

Spatial-temporal reading



# Hybrid Governance Perspective | Two Cases from Brussels

The Brussels' GASAP => a 'spatially extended' CSA



-  **2010**  
GASAP Groups
-  **2009**  
GASAP Groups
-  **2008**  
GASAP Groups
-  **2007**  
GASAP Groups
-  **2006**  
First GASAP Groups

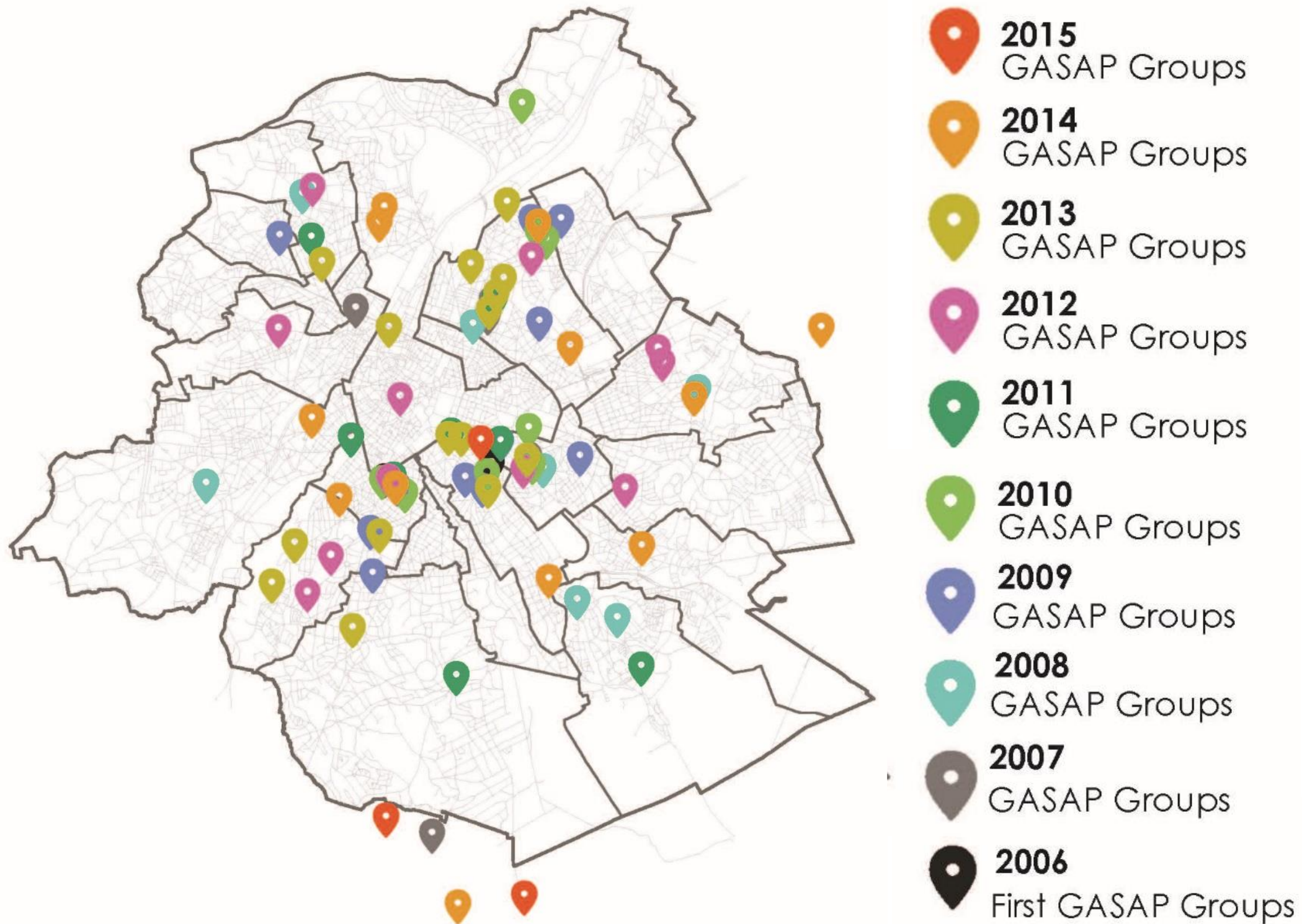


Spatial-temporal reading



# Hybrid Governance Perspective | Two Cases from Brussels

The Brussels' GASAP => a 'spatially extended' CSA

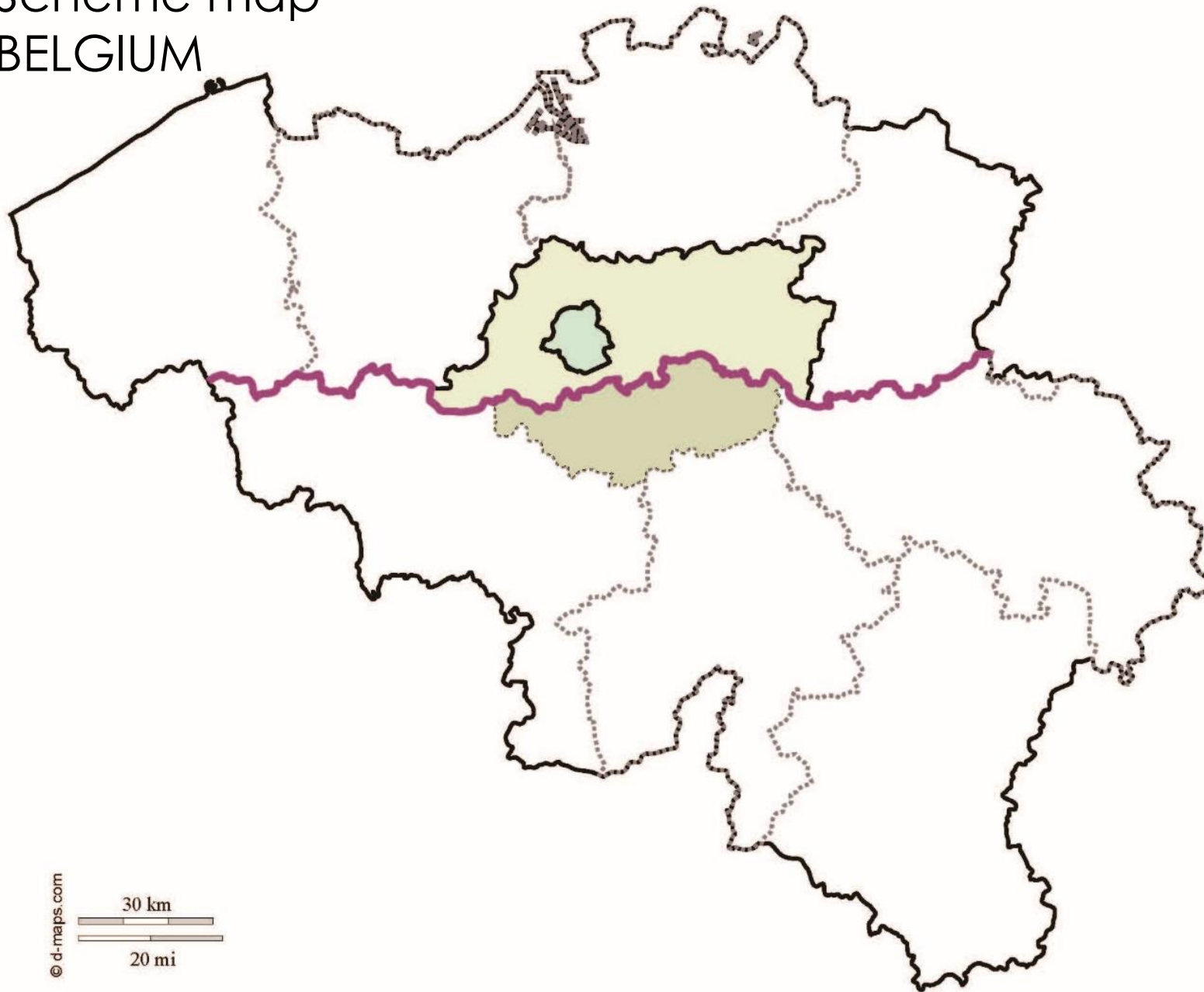


Spatial-temporal reading

# Hybrid Governance Perspective | Two Cases from Brussels

The Brussels' GASAP => a 'spatially extended' CSA

Scheme map  
BELGIUM



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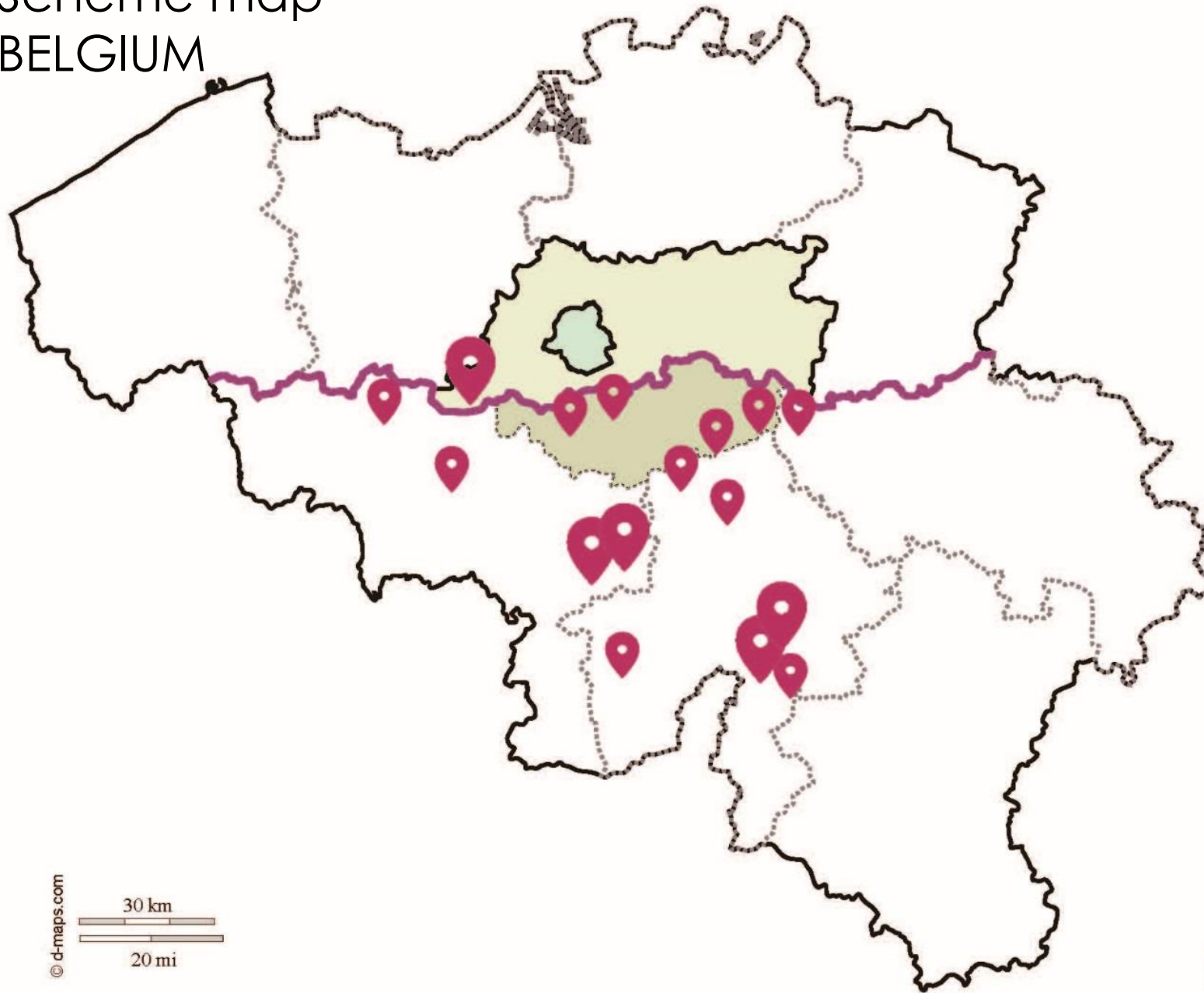
Cases from  
Brussels



# Hybrid Governance Perspective | Two Cases from Brussels

The Brussels' GASAP => a 'spatially extended' CSA

Scheme map  
BELGIUM



 Producers in Wallonia

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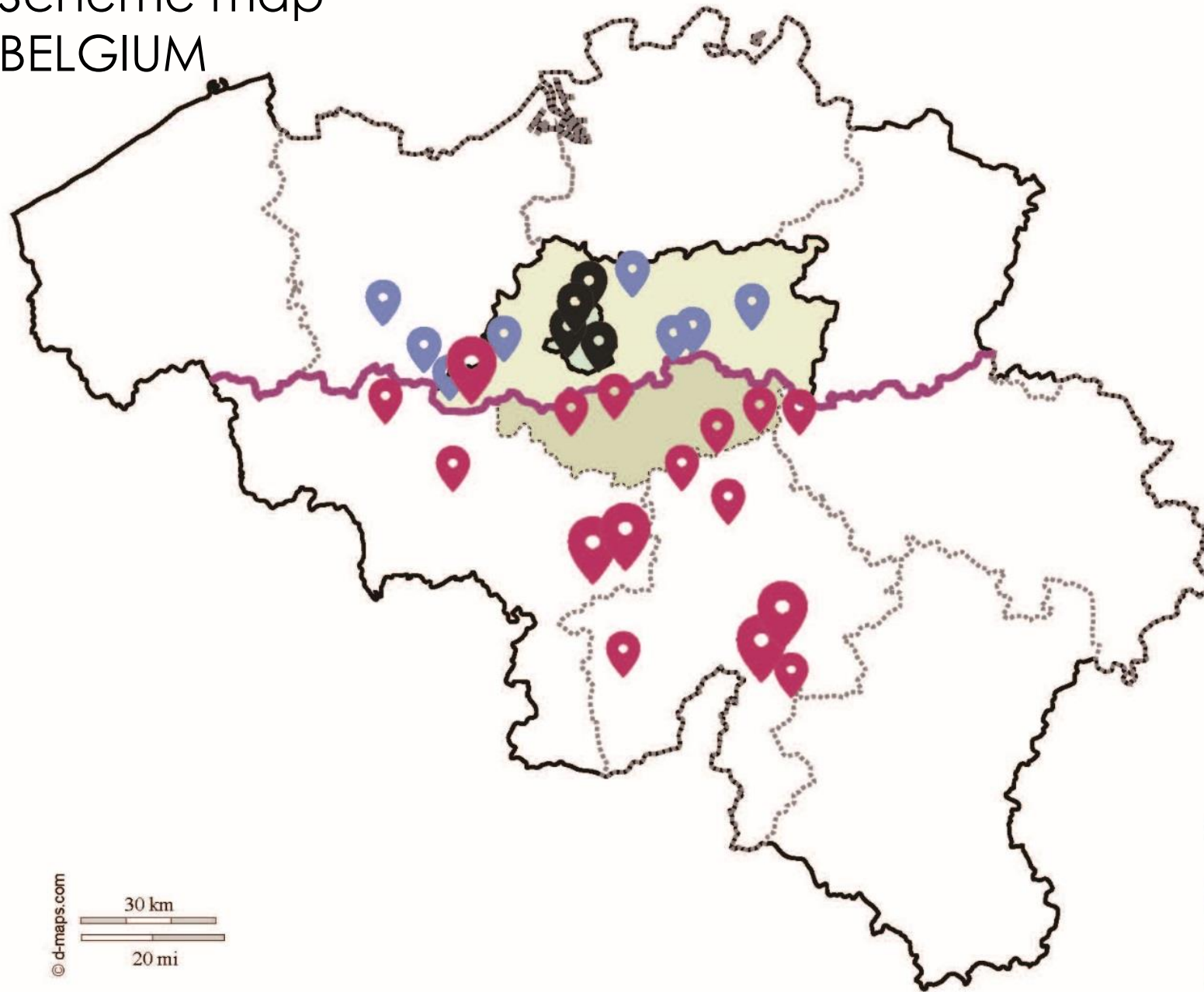
Hybrid  
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Cases from  
Brussels

# Hybrid Governance Perspective | Two Cases from Brussels

The Brussels' GASAP => a 'spatially extended' CSA

Scheme map  
BELGIUM



-  Producers within the BCR
-  Producers in Flanders
-  Producers in Wallonia

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# Hybrid Governance Perspective | Two Cases from Brussels

The Brussels' GASAP => a 'spatially extended' CSA

- Bottom-up character but progressively more 'embedded' in the Brussels' / multi level socio-institutional system





# Hybrid Governance Perspective | Two Cases from Brussels

The Brussels' GASAP => a 'spatially extended' CSA

- Bottom-up character but progressively more 'embedded' in the Brussels' / multi level socio-institutional system

Solidarity-based/  
Horizontal modes of governance



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Solidarity-based/  
Horizontal modes of governance



ORGANIZATIONAL

Material-spatial  
development fostering  
increase need to secure resources

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Cases from  
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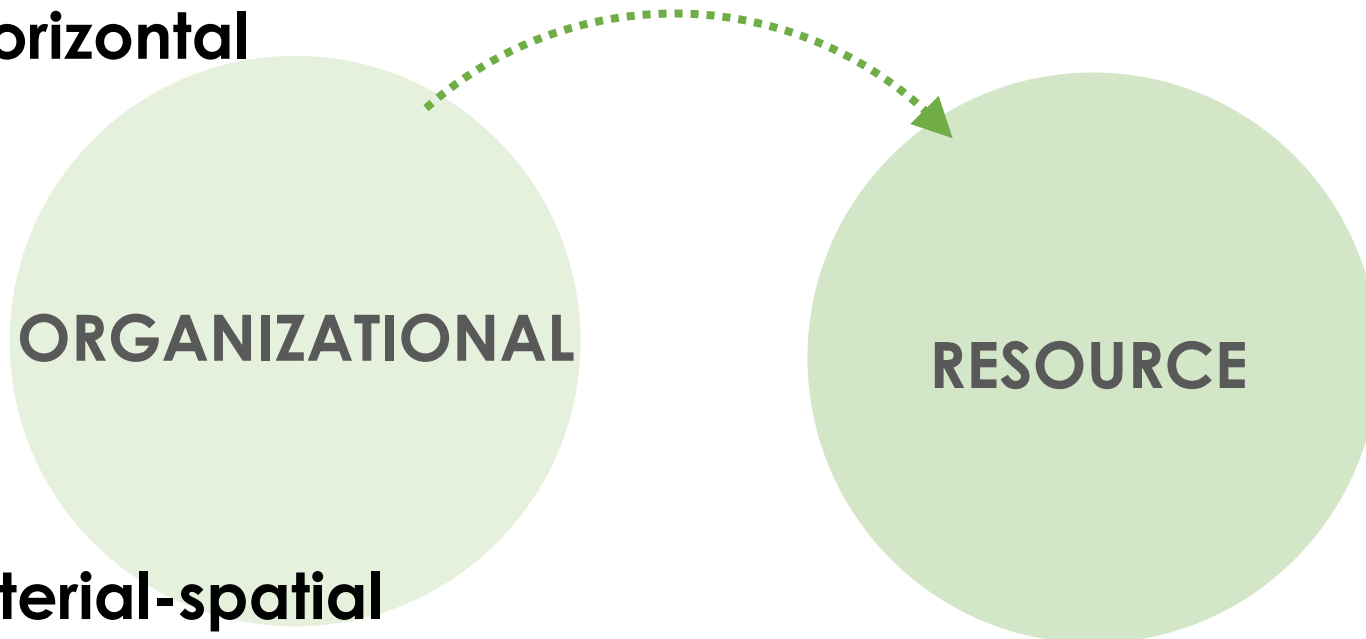


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Horizontal



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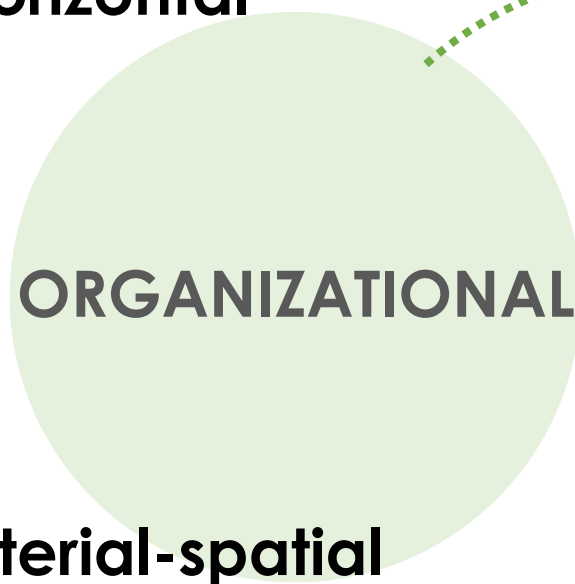


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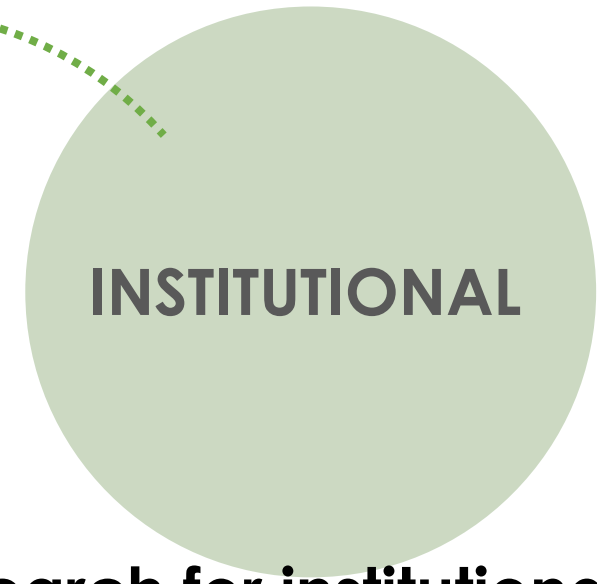
Solidarity-based/  
Horizontal



Material-spatial  
development fostering  
increase need to secure resources



Resource dependence



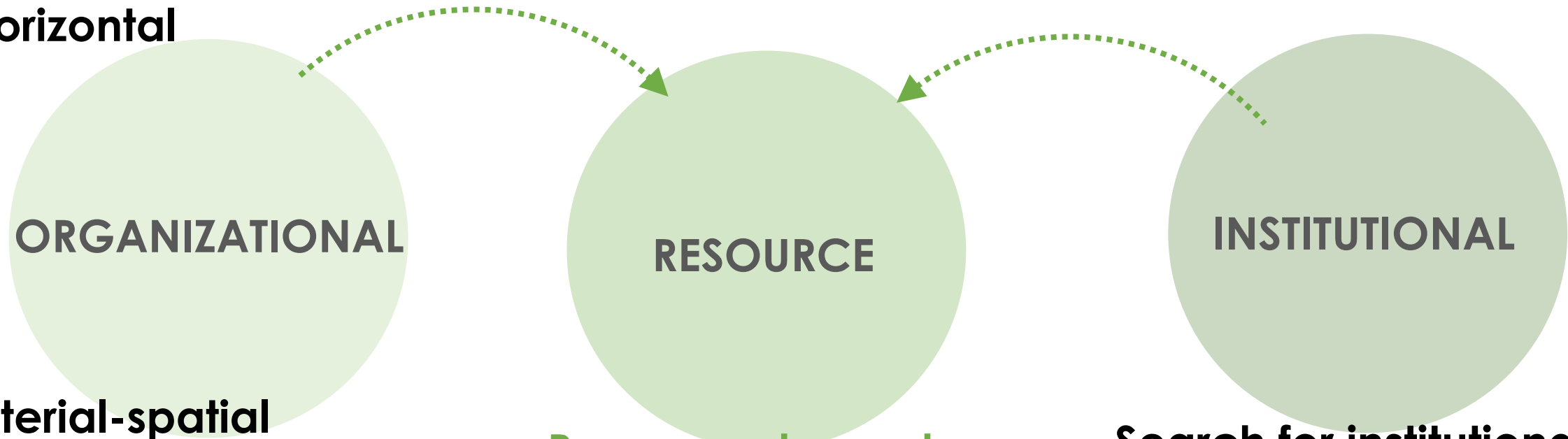
Search for institutional support

# Hybrid Governance Perspective | Two Cases from Brussels

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Solidarity-based/  
Horizontal



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development fostering  
increase need to secure resources

Resource dependence

Search for institutional support

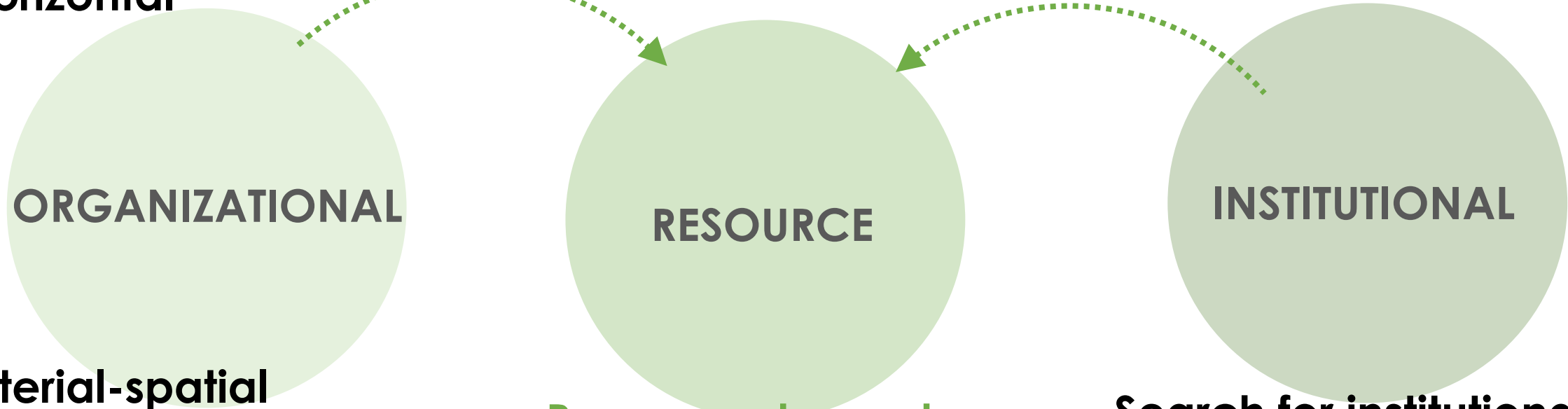
-Need to improve logistics  
as the organization scales out

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Solidarity-based/  
Horizontal



Material-spatial  
development fostering  
increase need to secure resources

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Search for institutional support

-Need to improve logistics  
as the organization scales out



-Networking, searching for  
collaborative frameworks

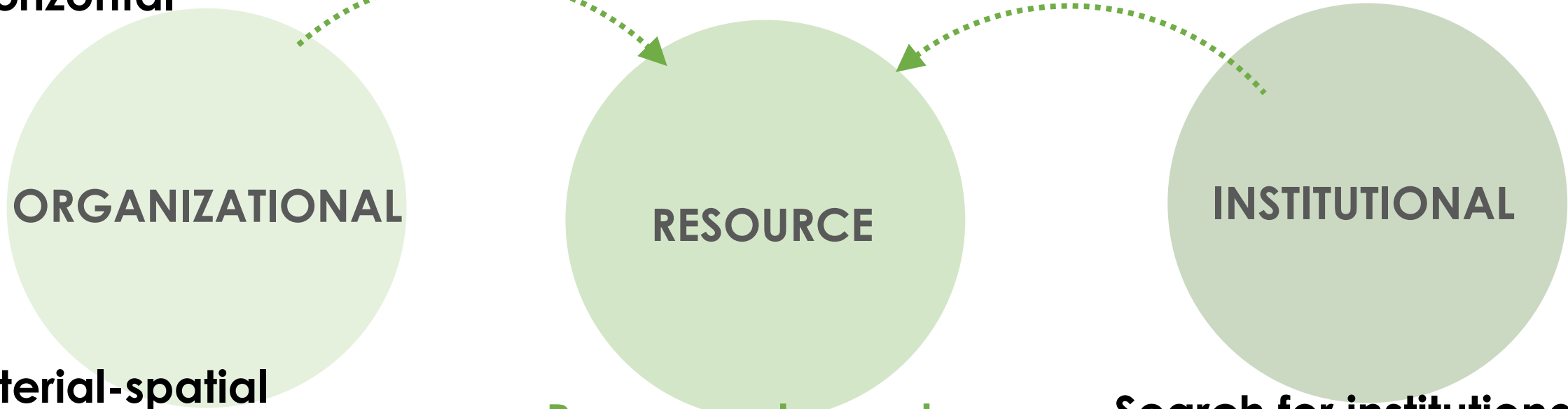


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Solidarity-based/  
Horizontal



Material-spatial  
development fostering  
increase need to secure resources

Resource dependence

Search for institutional support

-Need to improve logistics  
as the organization scales out

-Increased inter spatiality of  
the network



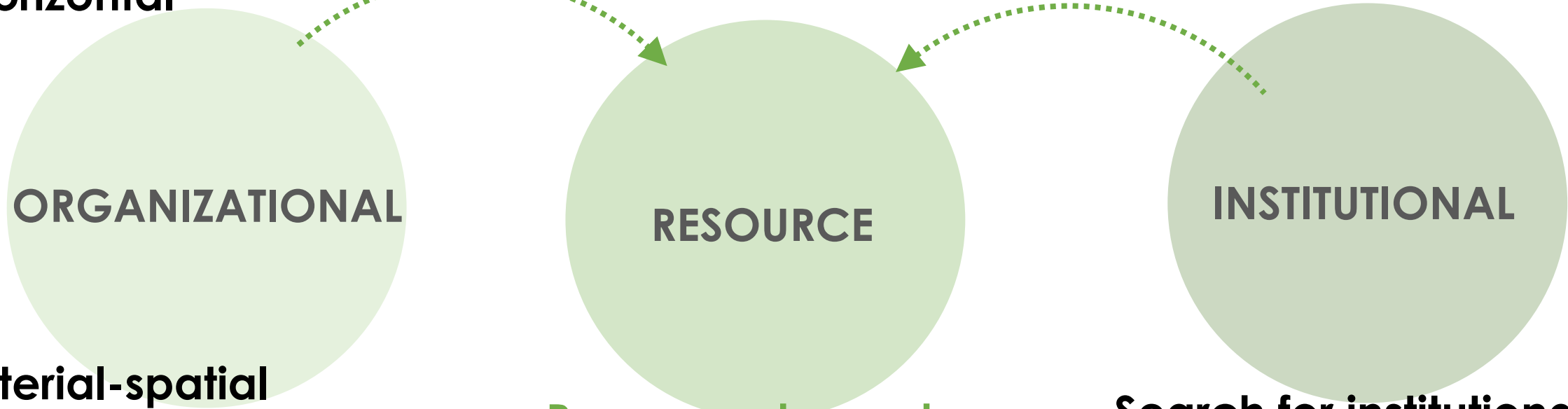
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Horizontal



Material-spatial  
development fostering  
increase need to secure resources

Resource dependence

Search for institutional support

-Need to improve logistics  
as the organization scales out  
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the network

.....>

.....>

-Networking, searching for  
collaborative frameworks  
-Links with Wallonia  
government

# Hybrid Governance Perspective | Two Cases from Brussels

The Brussels' GASAP => a 'spatially extended' CSA

- Bottom-up character but progressively more 'embedded' in the Brussels' / multi level socio-institutional system

Solidarity-based/  
Horizontal

ORGANIZATIONAL

RESOURCE

INSTITUTIONAL

Material-spatial  
development fostering  
increase need to secure resources

Resource dependence

Search for institutional support

-Need to improve logistics  
as the organization scales out

-Increased inter spatiality of  
the network

-Networking, searching for  
collaborative frameworks

-Links with Wallonia  
government

Organizational governance tensions

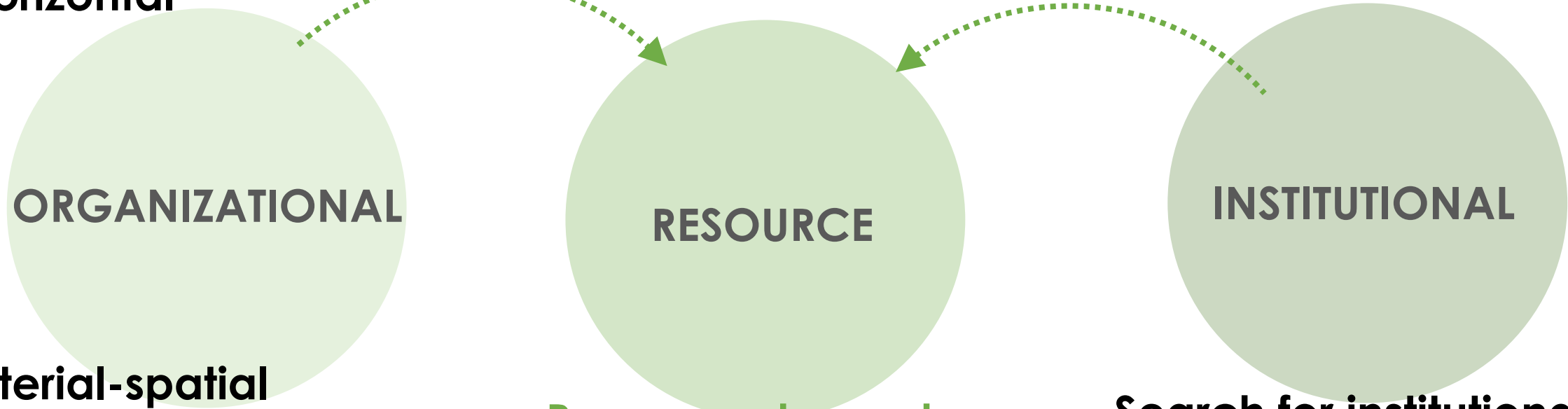


# Hybrid Governance Perspective | Two Cases from Brussels

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Solidarity-based/  
Horizontal



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development fostering

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Resource dependence

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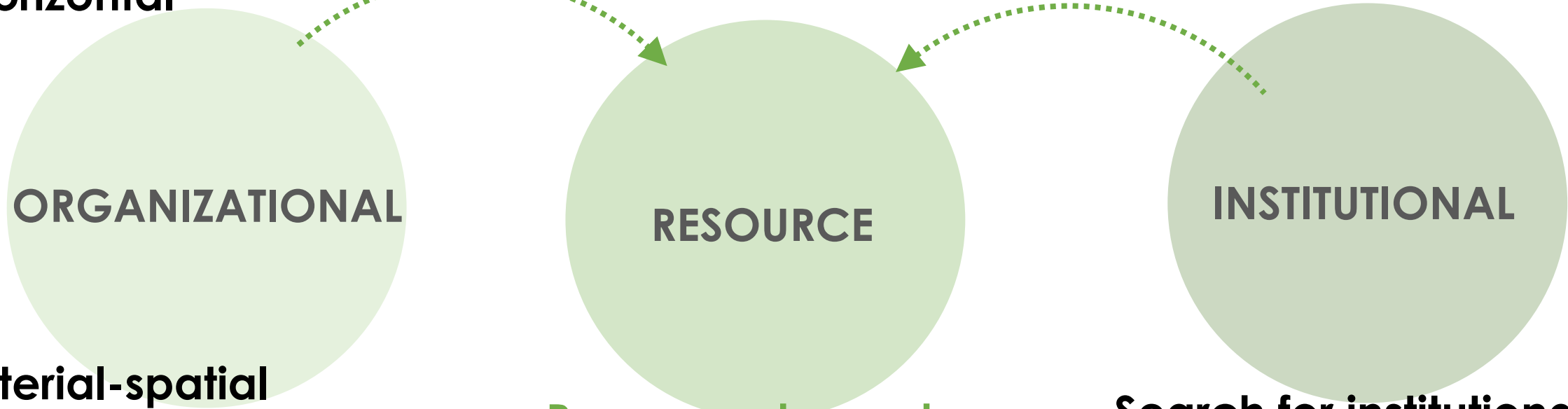
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Horizontal



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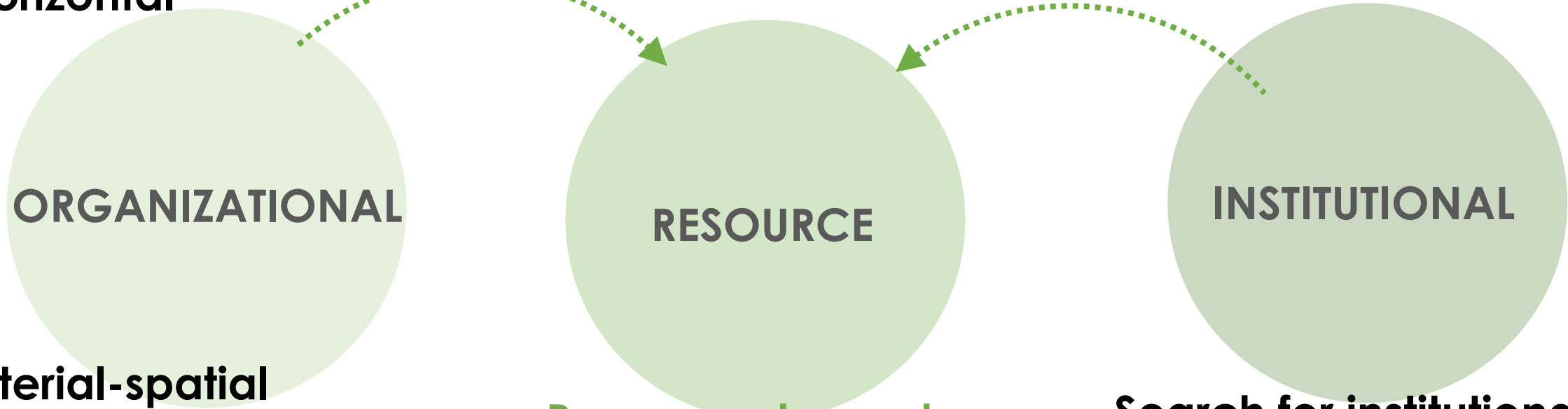
- Increased 'reflexivity' through time by the GASAP on its self-governance
- How to 'incorporate' new challenges, also through a more efficient management of the organization, while valorizing its solidarity/spontaneous nature?

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Solidarity-based/  
Horizontal



Material-spatial  
development fostering

increase need to secure resources

Resource dependence

Search for institutional support

Responsibility/accountability in decision-making



- How to 'incorporate' new challenges, also through a more efficient management of the organization, while valorizing its solidarity/spontaneous nature?



# Hybrid Governance Perspective | Two Cases from Brussels

Governance and out-scaling of the **Access to land** for Urban Agriculture

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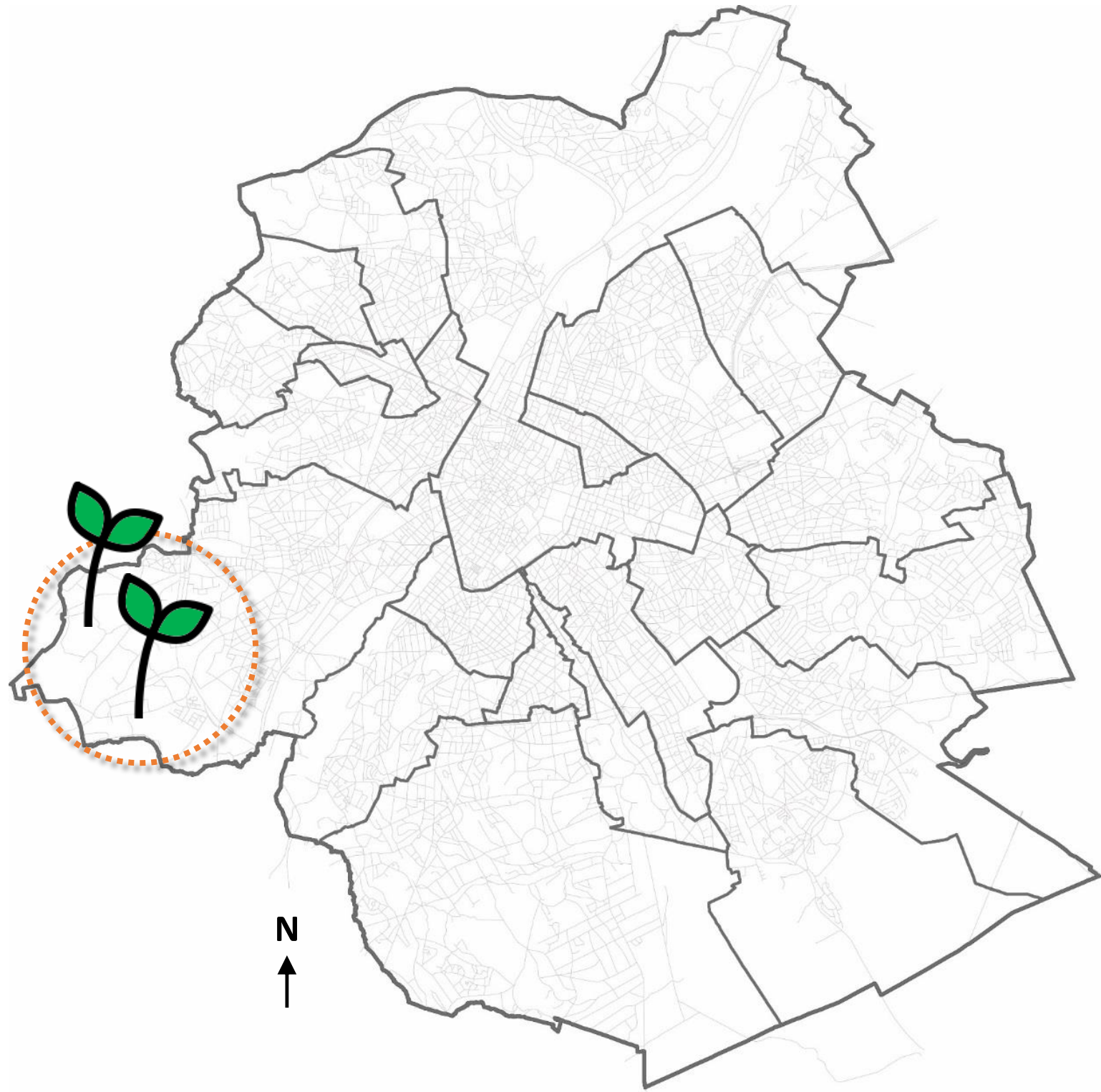
Hybrid  
Governance

**Cases in  
Brussels**



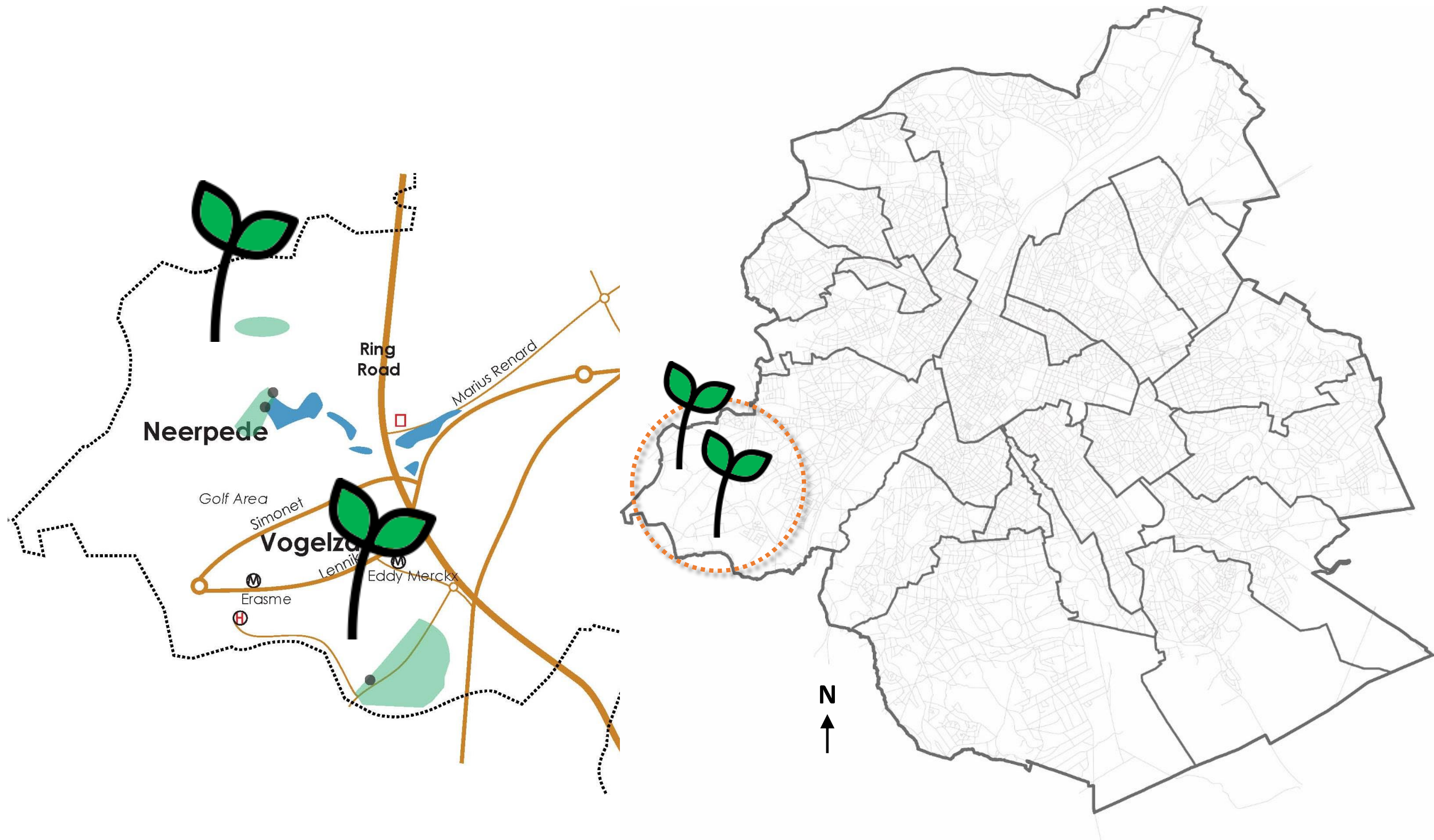
# Hybrid Governance Perspective | Two Cases from Brussels

Governance and out-scaling of the **Access to land** for Urban Agriculture



# Hybrid Governance Perspective | Two Cases from Brussels

Governance and out-scaling of the **Access to land** for Urban Agriculture

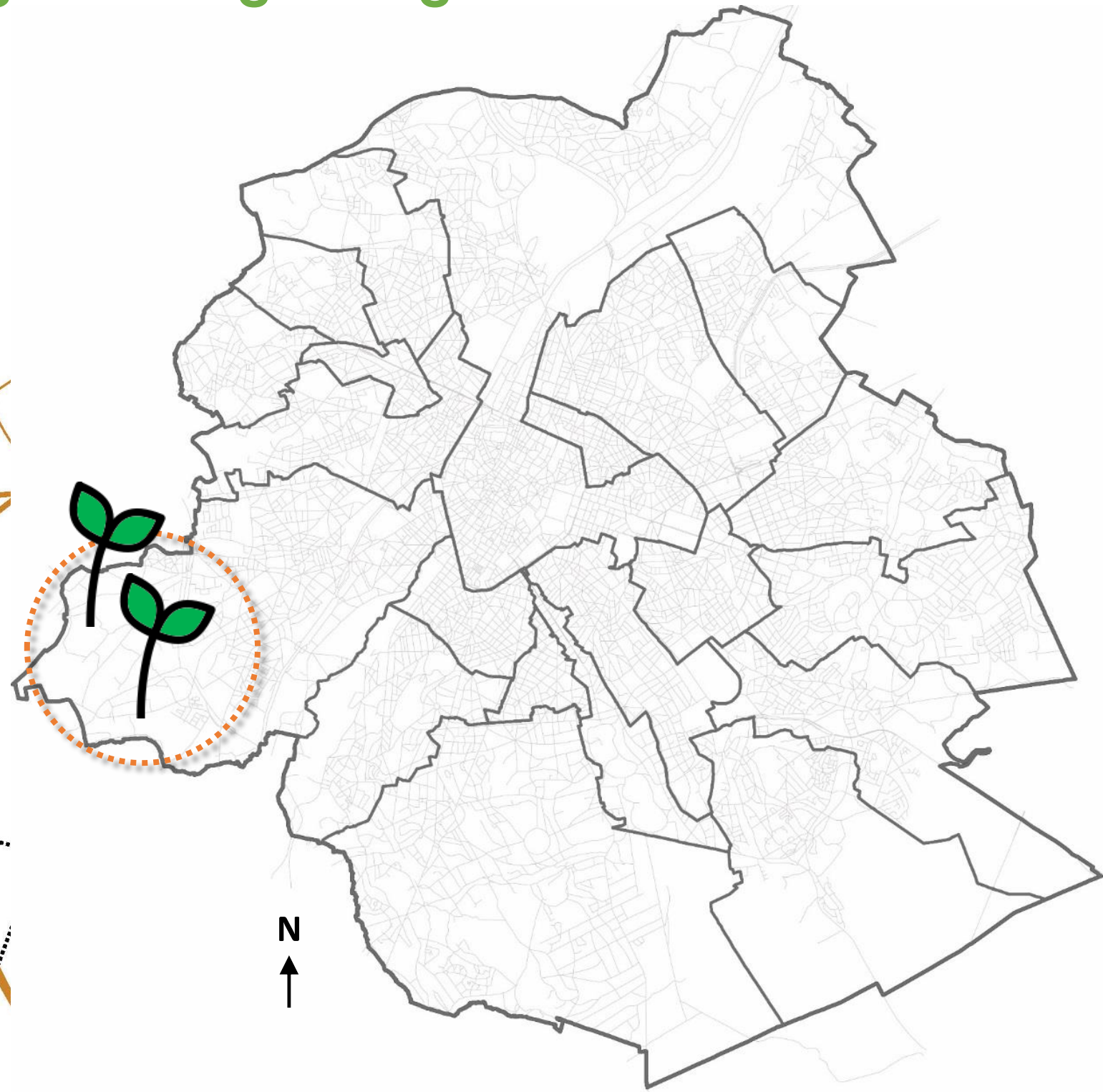
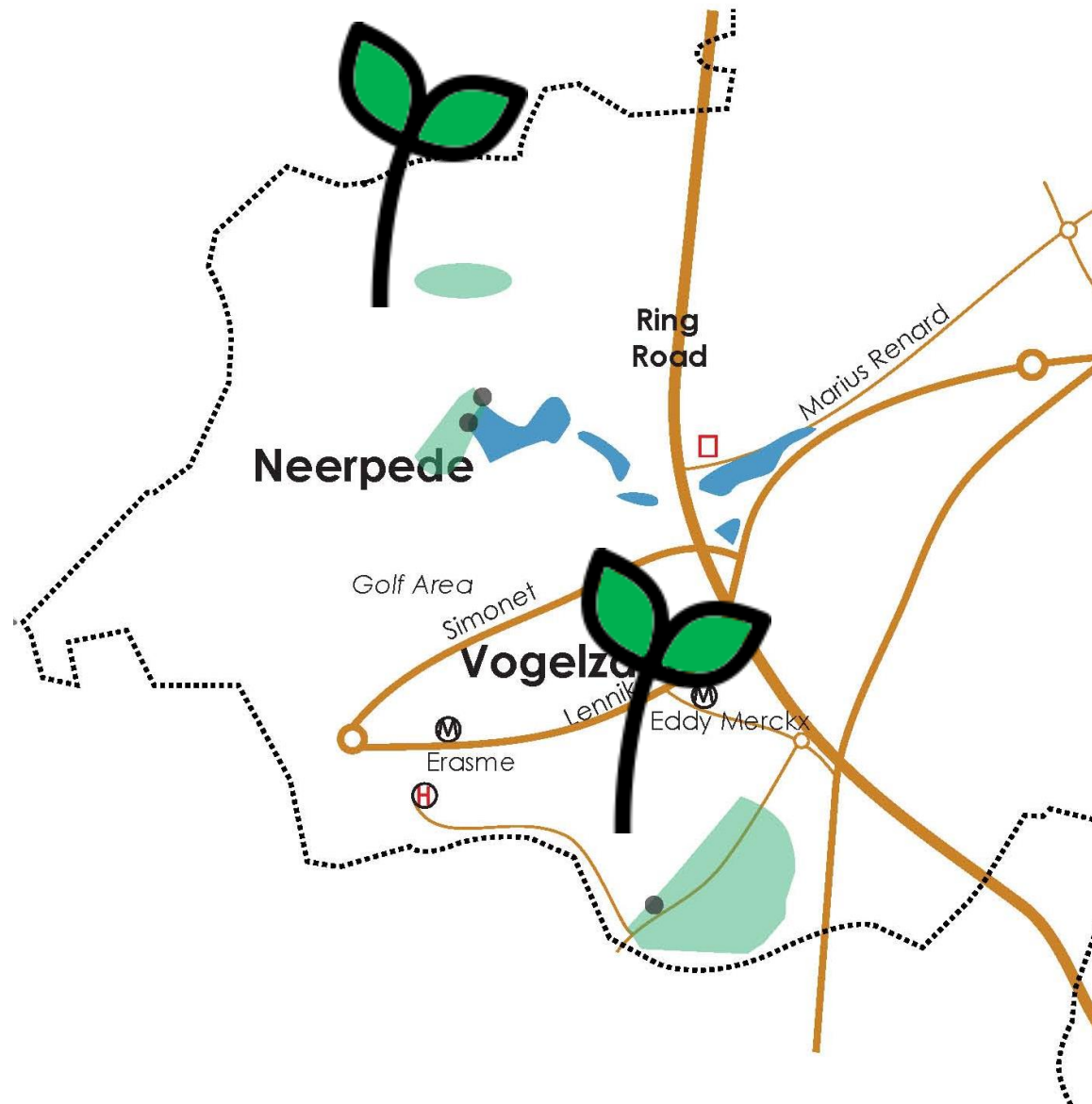




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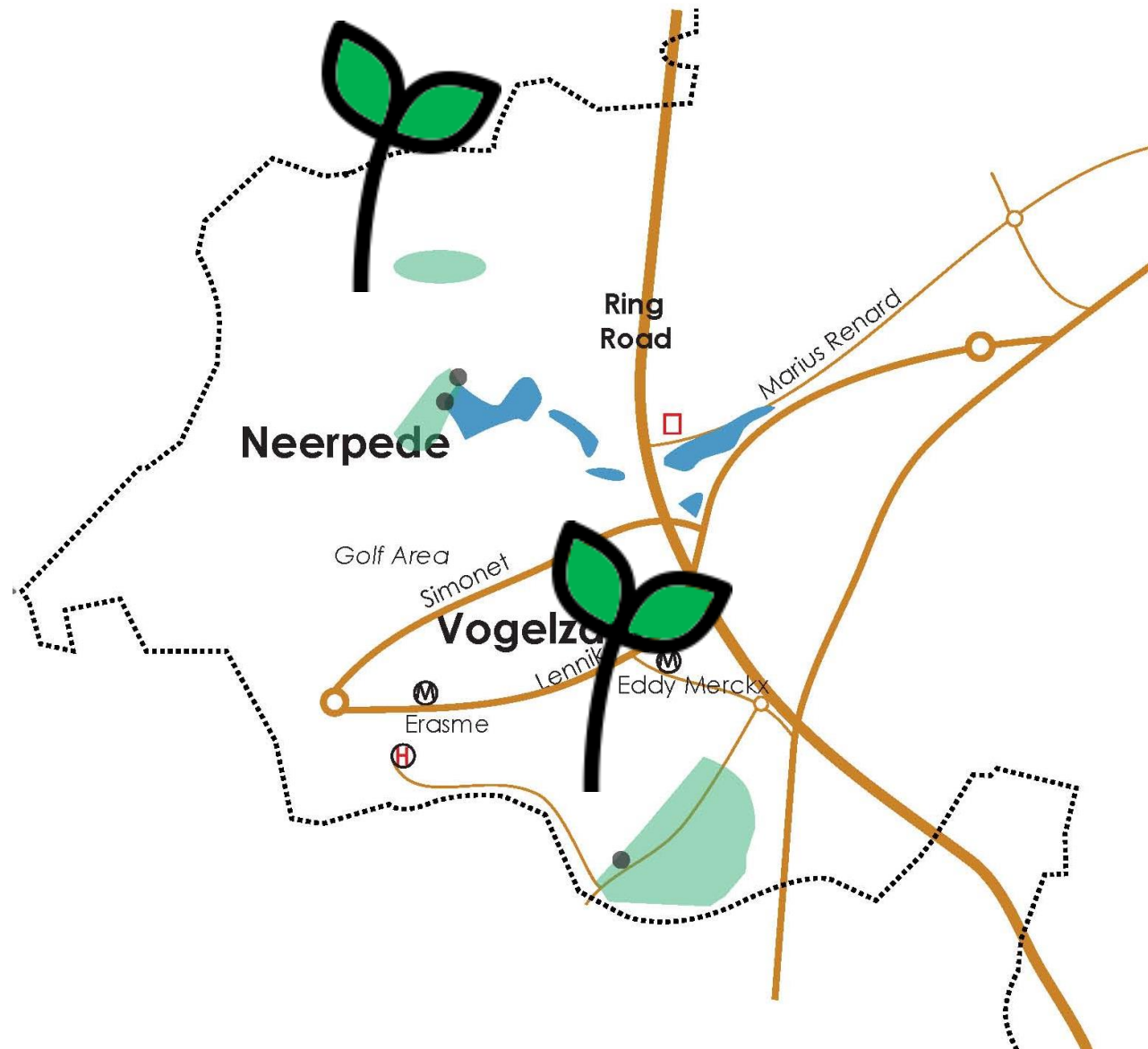
- Implementing **small scale agro-ecological agriculture**
- Re-localizing** the food chain





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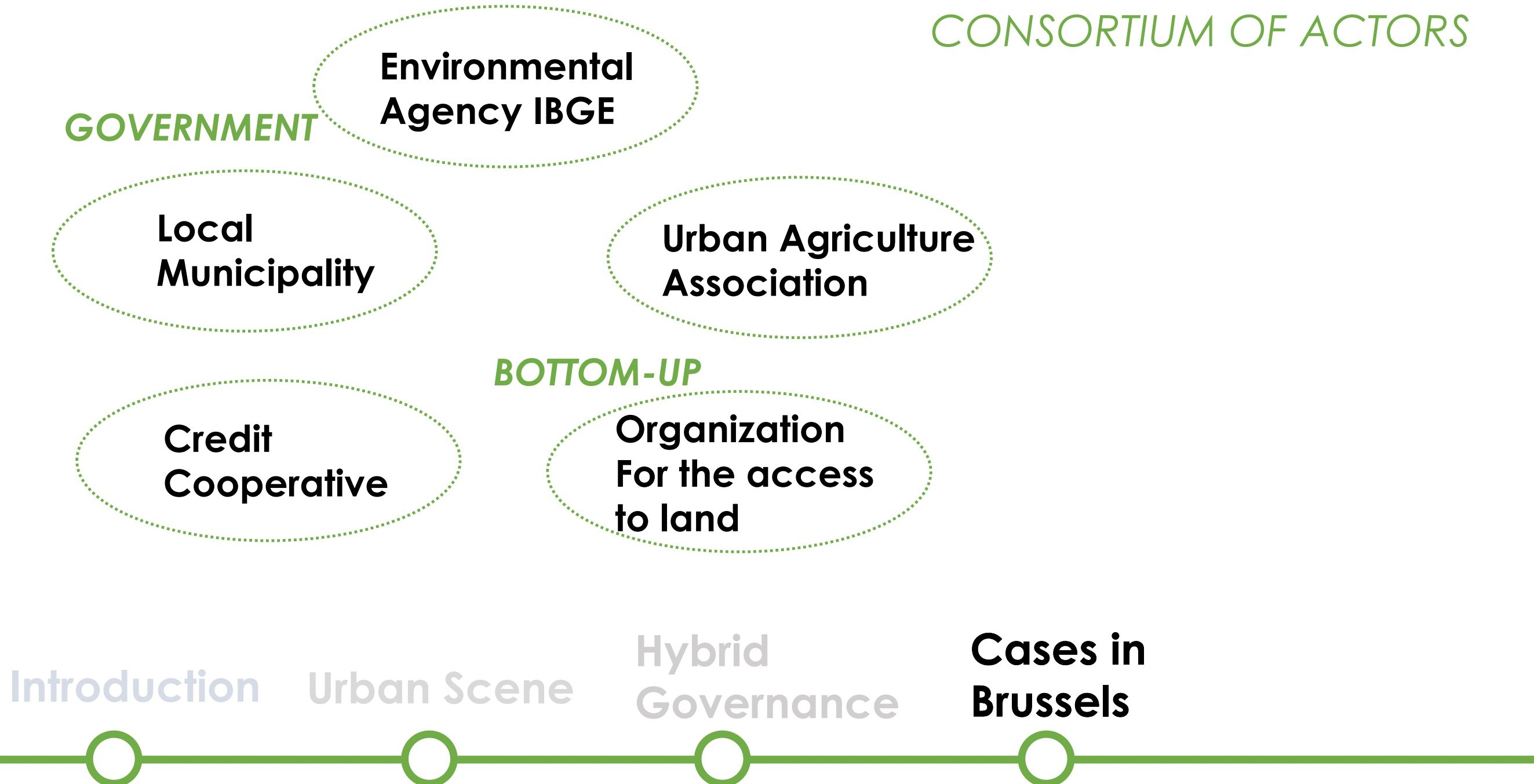




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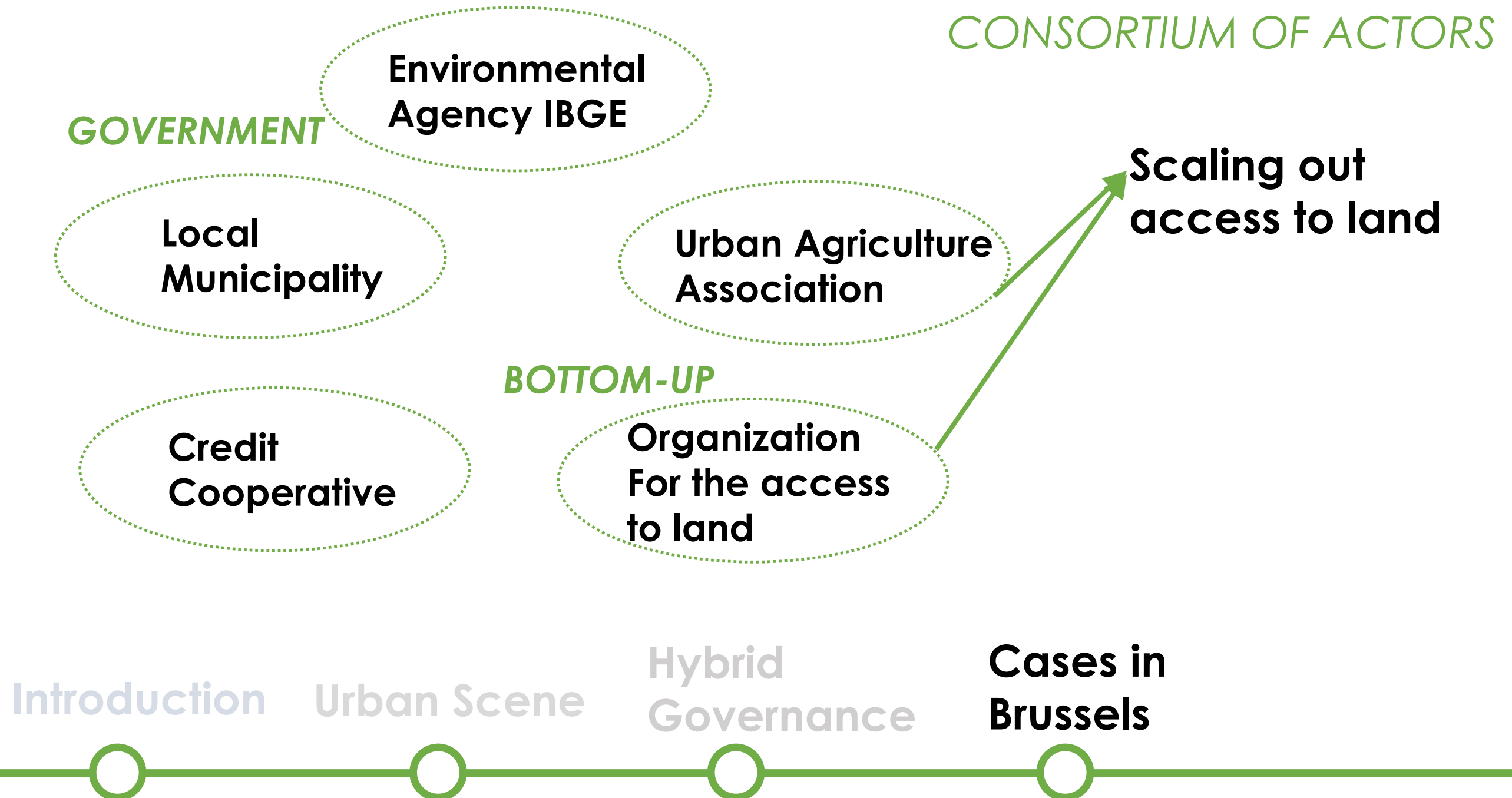
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**Multiple land accessibility constraints:** ← **Scaling out access to land**






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**Multiple **land accessibility constraints:****  **Scaling out  
access to land**

- Land availability
- Land ownership (fragmentation; speculative attitude)  

- Right to use land
- Potential Land Contamination (lack of clarity)
- Disenabling local authorities/planning regulations

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**A DIFFERENT SCALE OF GOVERNANCE?**

← **Scaling out  
access to land**

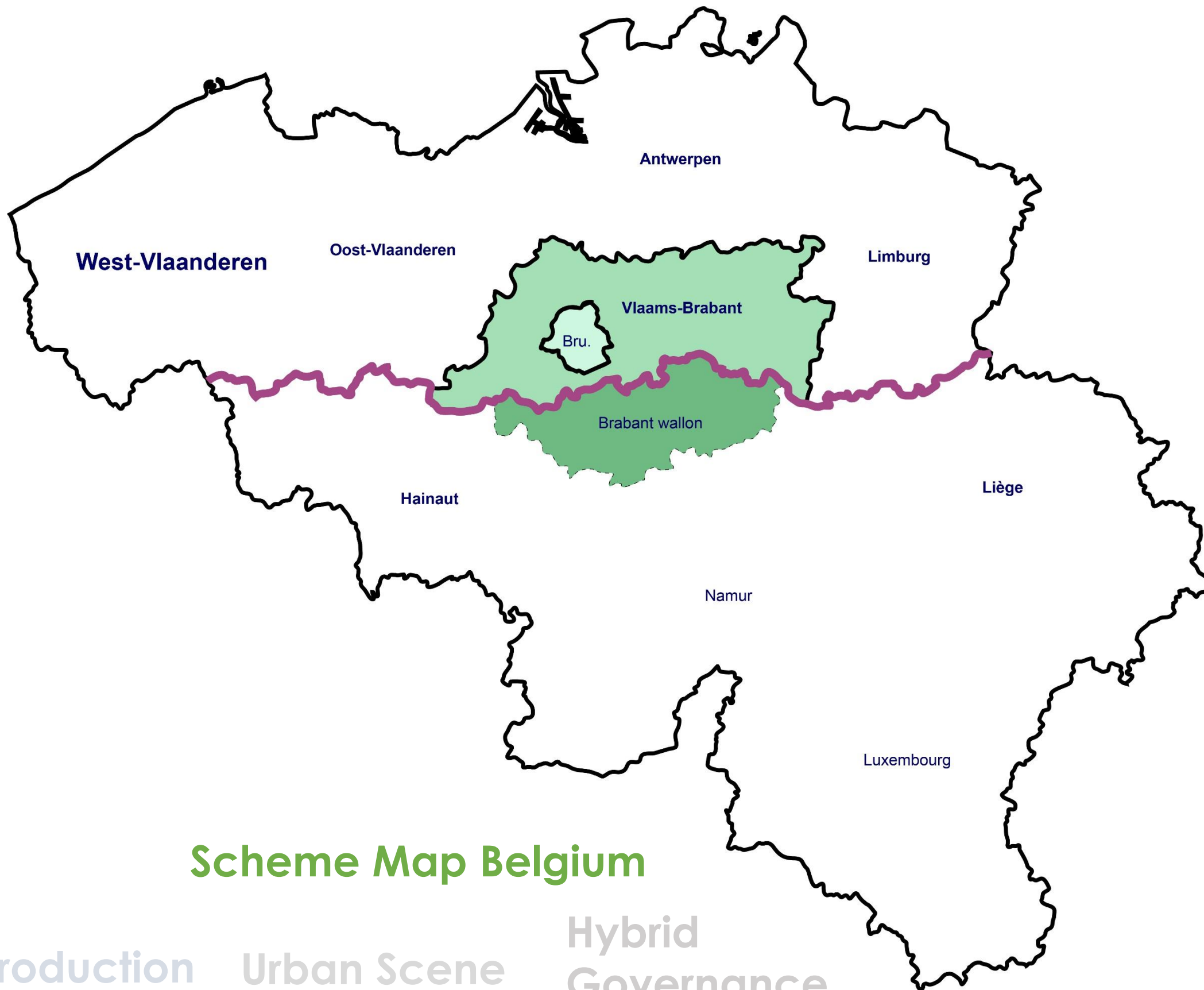
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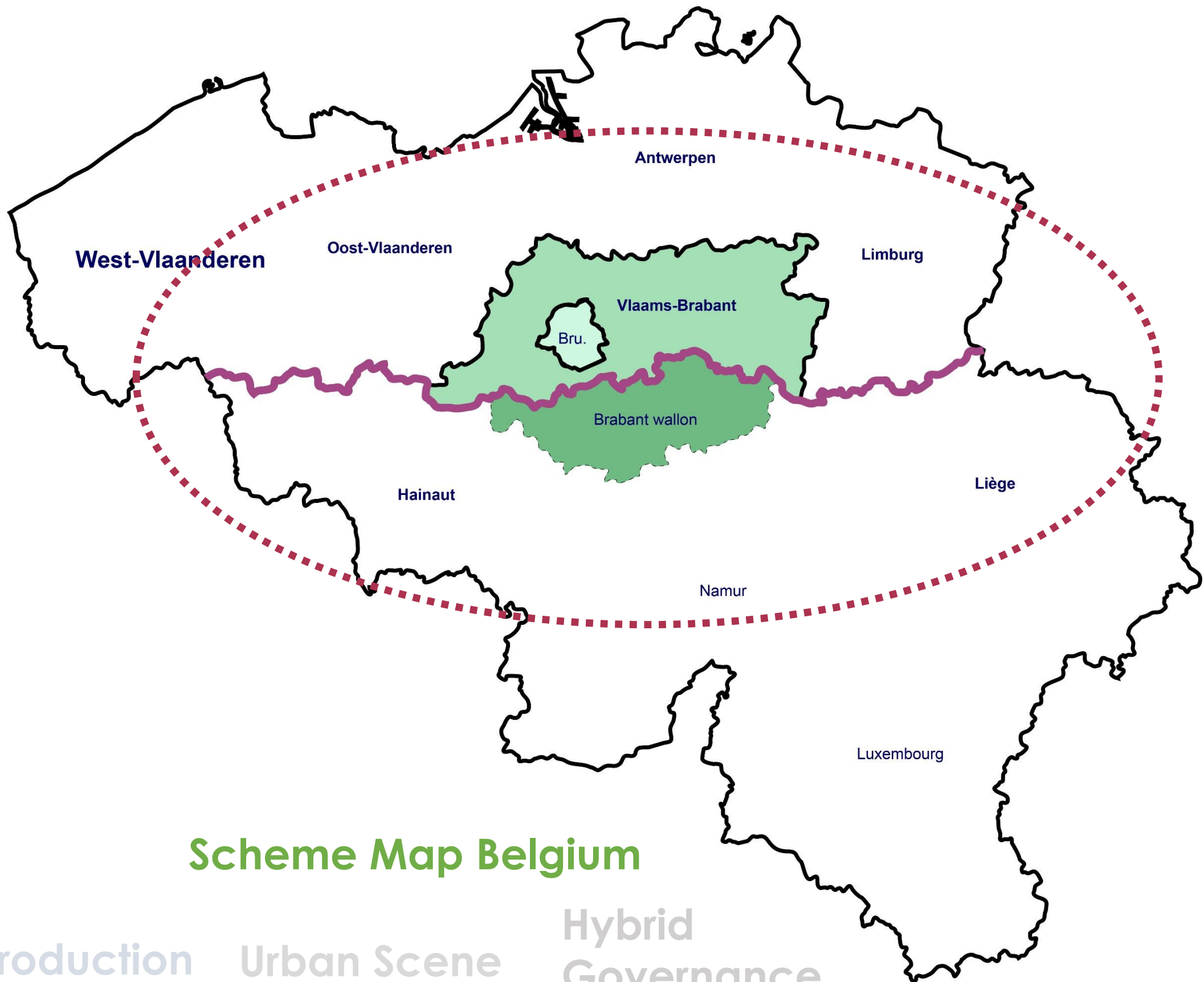


## Scheme Map Belgium

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**A DIFFERENT SCALE OF GOVERNANCE?**



**Scaling out  
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**=>Cooperation with actors/institutional  
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=>Cooperation with actors/institutional  
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=>Empowerment of organizations  
which can act as land trusts in both,  
**French and Flemish sides** (see *Terre en Vue*,  
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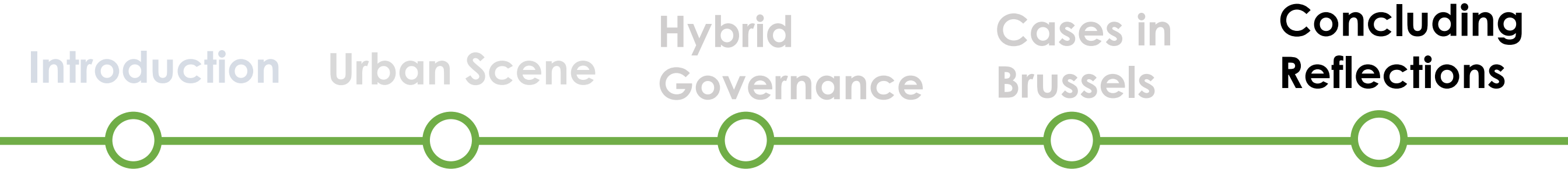
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↙ **Alignment in political  
will/objectives at higher  
territorial and  
institutional scales**



# Food as a Commons | Concluding Reflections



# Food as a Commons | Concluding Reflections

- **A number of diverse initiatives starting from the bottom-up/local level**  
(often strong values/ideologies, reproducing organizational models..)

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# Food as a Commons | Concluding Reflections

Diverse landscape  
← of practices

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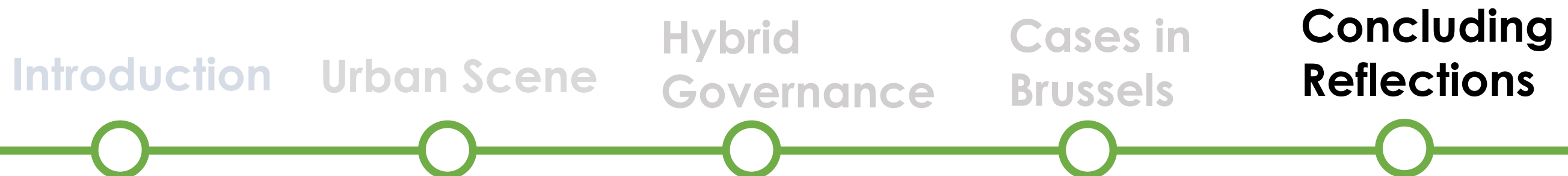
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# Food as a Commons | Concluding Reflections

Diverse landscape  
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- **But, as they** (diversely) **out-scale or upscale** (in objectives/practices) **we see stronger interactions/tensions with other actors, organization, institutions of the governance system at different scales**

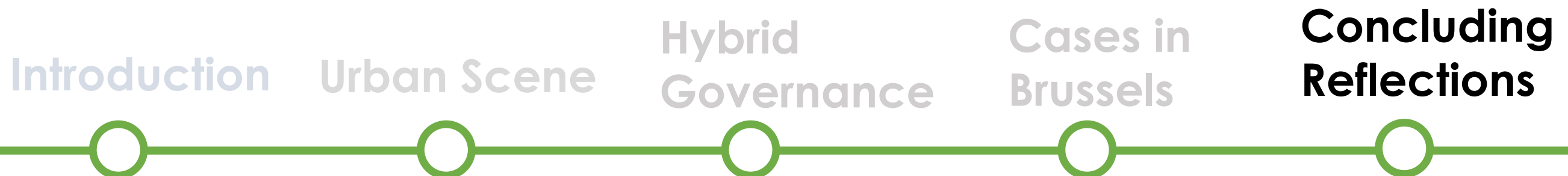




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Values alignment  
openness to collaborate

**Inclusion/exclusion** in “food commoning” initiatives



**THANK YOU!**

